









E. K. Waterhouse

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G A Spencer.

A Gift from his Father.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1824.

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A N  
H I S T O R Y  
Of the ANCIENT and ILLUSTRIOUS  
F A M I L Y  
O F T H E  
S P E N C E R S,

Earl of Gloucester in the Reign of King  
Richard the Second,

Barons Spencer, Earls of Sunderland,

A N D

Duke of Marlborough.

Collected from RECORDS, OLD WILLS, MANUSCRIPTS,  
our most approved HISTORIANS, and other AUTHENTICK  
AUTHORITIES.

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By ARTHUR COLLINS, Esq;  
Author of the Peerage of England, &c. &c.

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L O N D O N, Printed in the Year 1755.







*CHURCHILL, Duke of Marlborough.*

**J**OH<sup>N</sup>, Duke of Marlborough, eldest surviving son of Sir Winston Churchill, (descended from an antient family seated at Churchill, in the county of Somerset, from whence they had their name) having for his great and manifold services been created Duke of Marlborough, and Marquis of Blandford, 14 Dec. 1702, in the 1st year of Queen Anne; and his honours in 1706, by act of parliament limited to his daughters, and the heirs male of their bodies successively, I am now to treat of him, and his descendants.

On his Grace's decease, the following relation was incerted in our Gazette, No. 6068. Whitehall, June 16, 1722. " This morning about four o'clock, died at Windsor, the " most Noble John, Duke of Marlborough, Captain General " of his Majesty's Forces, Master General of the Ordinance, " Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter, &c. Whose " great and successful actions in the service of his country, will " transmit his name with glory to all posterity." And the said most noble Prince has merited to be mentioned, with that veneration his immortal actions deserve, by every one in Europe, who does not wish to see it fall under the dominion of universal monarchy. I shall therefore insert a short enumeration of his unparalleled victories and exploits, justly inscribed on a monumental pillar at Blenheim, near Woodstock, in a plain, elegant, masculine style; the only panegyrick they require, being founded on facts universally known, and are as follows,

The Castle of Blenheim was founded by Q. ANNE,

In the fourth Year of her Reign,

In the Year of the christian Æra 1705;

A Monument design'd to perpetuate the Memory of the  
signal Victory

Obtained over the French and Bavarians,

Near the Village of Blenheim,

On the Banks of the Danube,

By JOHN Duke of MARLBOROUGH.

The Hero not only of his Nation, but his age;

Whose Glory was equal in the Council and in the Field;

Who by Wisdom, Justice, Candour and Address,

Reconciled various, and even opposite Interests.

Acquired an Influence, which no Rank, no Authority can give,

Nor any Force but That of superior Virtue.

Became the fixed important Center,

Which





Which united in one common Cause  
The principal States of Europe;  
Who by military Knowledge, and irresistible Valour,  
In a long Series of uninterrupted Triumphs,  
Broke the Power of France,

When raised the highest, when exerted the most:  
Rescued the Empire from Desolation;

Asserted, and confirmed the Liberties of Europe.

Philip, a grandson of the House of France, united to the interests, directed by the policy, supported by the arms of that Crown, was placed on the Throne of Spain. King WILLIAM the Third beheld this formidable union of two great, and once rival, Monarchies. At the end of a life spent in defending the liberties of Europe, he saw them in their greatest danger. He provided for their security in the most effectual manner. He took the Duke of MARLBOROUGH into his service.

Ambassador extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,

To the STATES-GENERAL of the united Provinces.

The Duke contracted several alliances before the Death of King WILLIAM. He confirmed and improved These. He contracted Others, after the accession of Queen ANNE; and re-united the confederacy, which had been dissolved at the end of a former war, in a stricter and firmer league.

Captain General and Commander in Chief

Of the Forces of GREAT-BRITAIN,

The Duke led to the field the army of the allies. He took with surprizing rapidity, Venlo, Ruremonde, Stevenswaert, Leige. He extended and secured the frontiers of the Dutch. The enemies, whom he found insulting at the Gates of Nimeghen, were driven to seek for shelter behind their lines. He forced Bonne, Huy, Limbourg, in another campaign. He opened the communication of the Rhine, as well as the Maes. He added all the country between these rivers to his former conquest. The arms of France, favoured by the defection of the Elector of Bavaria, had penetrated into the Heart of the Empire. This mighty Body lay exposed to immediate ruin. In that memorable crisis, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH led his troops with unexampled celerity, secrecy, order, from the Ocean to the Danube. He saw; he attacked; nor stopped, but to conquer the Enemy. He forced the Bavarians, sustained by the French, in their strong intrenchments at Schellenberg. He passed the Danube. A second royal army, composed of the best troops of France, was sent to re-inforce the first. That of the confederates was divided. With one part of it the siege of Ingolstadt was carried on. With the other the Duke gave battle to the united



united strength of France and Bavaria. On the second day of August, 1704, he gained a more glorious victory than the histories of any age can boast. The heaps of slain were dreadful proofs of his valour. A Marshall of France, whole legions of French, his prisoners, proclaimed his mercy. Bavaria was subdued. Ratibon, Augsbours, Ulm, Memmingen, all the usurpations of the enemy, were recovered. The liberty of the Diet, the peace of the Empire were restored. From the Danube the Duke turned his victorious arms towards the Rhine and the Moselle. Landau, Treves, Traerbach, were taken. In the course of one campaign the very nature of the war was changed. The invaders of other States were reduced to defend their own. The frontier of France was exposed in its weakest part to the efforts of the allies.

That he might improve this advantage; that he might push the sum of things to a speedy decision, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH led his troops early in the following year once more to the Moselle. They, whom he had saved a few months before, neglected to second him now. They, who might have been his companions in conquest, refused to join him. When he saw the generous designs he had formed frustrated by private interest, by pique, by jealousy, he returned with speed to the Maes. He returned; and Fortune and Victory returned with him. Liege was relieved; Huy re-taken; the French, who had pressed the army of the States-General with superior numbers, retired behind intrenchments, which they deemed impregnable. The Duke forced these intrenchments, with inconsiderable loss, on the seventh day of July, 1705. He defeated a great part of the army, which defended them. The rest escaped by a precipitate retreat. If advantages proportionable to this success were not immediately obtained; let the failure be ascribed to that misfortune, which attends most confederacies; a division of opinions, where one alone should judge; a division of powers, where one alone should command. The disappointment itself did honour to the Duke. It became the wonder of mankind, how he could do so much under those restraints, which had hindered him from doing more.

Powers more absolute, were given him afterwards. The encrease of his powers multiplied his victories. At the opening of the next campaign, when all his army was not yet assembled; when it was hardly known that he had taken the field, the noise of his triumphs was heard over Europe. On the 12th of May, 1706, he attacked the French at Ramillies. In the space of two hours their whole army was put to flight. The vigour and conduct, with which he improved this success, were equal to those, with which he gained it. Louvain, Brussels





Brussels, Malines, Liere, Ghent, Oudenard, Antwerp, Damme, Bruges, Courtray, surrender'd. Ostend, Menin, Dendermond, Aeth, were taken. Brabant and Flanders, were recovered. Places, which had resisted the greatest Generals for months, for years; Provinces, disputed for ages, were the conquests of a summer. Nor was the Duke content to triumph alone. Solicitous for the general interest, his care extended to the remotest scenes of the war. He chose to lessen his own army, that he might enable the leaders of other armies to conquer. To this it must be ascribed that Turin was relieved; the Duke of Savoy re-instated; the French driven with confusion out of Italy.

These victories gave the confederates an opportunity of carrying the war on every side, into the dominions of France. But she continued to enjoy a kind of peaceful neutrality in Germany. From Italy she was once alarmed, and had no more to fear. The entire reduction of this power, whose ambition had caused, whose strength supported the war, seemed reserved for Him alone, who had so triumphantly begun the glorious work.

The barrier of France, on the side of the Low-Countries, had been forming for more than half a century. What art, power, expence could do, had been done to render it impenetrable. Yet here she was most exposed; for here the Duke of MARLBOROUGH threatened to attack her.

To cover what they had gained by surprize, or had been yielded to them by treachery, the French marched to the banks of the Schelde. At their head were the Princes of the blood, and their most fortunate general, the Duke of Vendosme. Thus commanded, thus posted, they hoped to check the victor in his course. Vain were their hopes. The Duke of MALBOROUGH passed the river in their sight. He defeated their whole army. The approach of night concealed; the proximity of Ghent favoured their flight. They neglected nothing to repair their loss, to defend their frontier. New generals, new armies appeared in the Netherlands. All contributed to enhance the glory; none were able to retard the progress of the confederate arms.

Lisle, the bulwark of this barrier, was besieged. A numerous garrison, and a marshal of France defended the place. Prince Eugene of Savoy commanded, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH covered and sustained the siege. The rivers were seized, and the communication with Holland interrupted. The Duke opened new communications, with great labour, and much greater art. Through countries, over-run by the enemy, the necessary convoys arrived in safety,



safety. One alone was attacked. The troops, which attacked it, were beat. The defence of Lisle was animated by assurances of relief. The French assembled all their force. They marched towards the town. The duke of MARLBOROUGH offered them battle, without suspending the siege. They abandoned the enterprize. They came to save the town. They were spectators of its fall.

From this conquest, the Duke hastened to others. The posts taken by the enemy on the Schelde were surprized. That river was passed the second time; and, notwithstanding the great preparations made to prevent it, without opposition.

Brussels, besieged by the elector of Bavaria, was relieved. Ghent surrender'd to the Duke in the middle of a winter remarkably severe. An army, little inferior to his own, marched out of the place.

As soon as the season of the year permitted him to open another campaign, the Duke besieged and took Tournay. He invested Mons. Near this city the French army, covered by thick woods, defended by treble intrenchments, waited to molest, nor presumed to offer battle. Even this was not attempted by them with impunity. On the last day of August 1709. the Duke attacked them in their camp. All was employed, nothing availed against the resolution of such a general, against the fury of such troops. The battle was bloody. The event decisive. The woods were pierced. The fortifications trampled down. The enemy fled. The town was taken. Doway, Bethune, Aire, St. Venant, Bouchain, underwent the same fate, in two succeeding years. Their vigorous resistance could not save them. The army of France durst not attempt to relieve them. It seemed preserved to defend the capital of the monarchy.

The prospect of this extreme distress, was neither distant, nor dubious. The French acknowledged their conqueror, and sued for peace.

These are the actions of the D. of MARLBOROUGH,

Performed in the Compass of few Years;

Sufficient to adorn the Annals of Ages.

The Admiration of other Nations.

Will be conveyed to latest Posterity,

In the Histories even of the Enemies of BRITAIN,

The Sense, which the BRITISH Nation had,

Of his transcendent Merit,

Was expressed

In the most solemn, most effectual, most durable Manner.

The ACTS of PARLIAMENT, inscribed on this Pillar,  
Shall stand

As long as the BRITISH Name and Language last,

Illustrious







Illustrious Monuments.  
Of MARLBROUGH's Glory  
And

Of BRITAIN's Gratitude.

His Grace married Sarah, daughter and one of the co-heirs to Richard Jennings of Sandridge, in the county of Hertford, Esq; by whom he had one son John, born on the 13th of January, 1686, and died at Cambridge on the 20th of February, 1705, also four Daughters, viz.

The Lady Henrietta, married to Francis, Earl of Godolphin, who by act of parliament, as before has been observed, succeeded as Dutcheſs of Marlborough. And her Grace departing this life on the 24th of October, 1733, was interred in Westminster-Abbey, on the 9th of November following, near her father-in-law the Earl of Godolphin, with this inscription on her coffin.

The most illustrious Princess Henrietta, Dutcheſs of Marlborough, Princess of the Holy Roman Empire, Marchioness of Blandford, Countess of Marlborough, Baroness Churchill of Sandridge, Countess of Godolphin, late Consort of the most noble potent Lord Francis, Earl of Godolphin, Viscount Rialton, and Baron Godolphin, died the 24th of October, in the year 1733, and in the 53d year of her age.

And leaving no issue male, her titles devolved on her nephew, Charles Earl of Sunderland, now Duke of Marlborough.

Lady Anne, second daughter, was married to Charles Spencer, Earl of Sunderland, and died on the 15th of April, 1716, by whom she had issue Charles, now Duke of Marlborough, as successor to the said Henrietta, Dutcheſs of Marlborough.

Lady Elizabeth, third daughter, was married to his Grace Scroop Egerton, now Duke of Bridgewater, and died on the 22d of March, 1713-14. And,

The Lady Mary, was the wife of his Grace John late Duke of Montague, of whose descendants I shall treat in their proper place.

CREATIONS.] Baron Churchill of Sandridge, in Com. Hertford, by letters patent 14 May, 1685, 1 Jac. II. Earl of Marlborough, in Com. Wilts, 9 Apr. 1689, 1 Will. and Mar. Marquis of Blandford, in Com. Dorset, and Duke of Marlborough, in the aforesaid county of Wilts, 14 Decem. 1702 1 Ann.

ARMS.] Sable, a Lion rampant, Argent, in a Canton of St. George; of the second, a Cross, Gules, being an Augmentation.

CREST.] On a Wreath, a Lion couchant-guardant, Argent, sustaining with his dexter Paw a Pennon, Gules, charg'd with a sinister Hand coup'd at the Wrist, and erect, Argent.

SUPPORTERS.] Two Wyverns, Gules, each gorg'd with a plain Collar, Or, having an oval Shield pendant therefrom, upon the Breast garnished Gold; the Dexter charged with St. George's Badge, Argent, a Cross, Gules; and the Sinister with St. Andrew's, viz. Sable, a Saltire, Argent.

MOTTO.] FIEL PERO DESDECADO.

CHIEF-SEATS belonging to his Grace's family.] At Blenheim in Oxfordshire, near Woodstock, 59 miles from London; and at Holloway-House at St. Alban's, in the county of Hertford, 20 miles from London.

### *SPENCER, Duke of Marlborough.*

CONCERNING the original of this family, it was of noble degree in Normandy, before the Conquest; for Robert Despencer was Steward to William the Conqueror, and one of his Barons; as is fully manifest from authentick records: Also that his posterity were denominated from the said office of Despencer (i. e. Steward) is testified by the learned Camden, in his discourse on surnames<sup>a</sup>; who mentions the Spencers, to be descended from the Despcncers, the De (when surnames were fully introduced) being omitted for brevity, as by innumerable instances in other families might be proved.

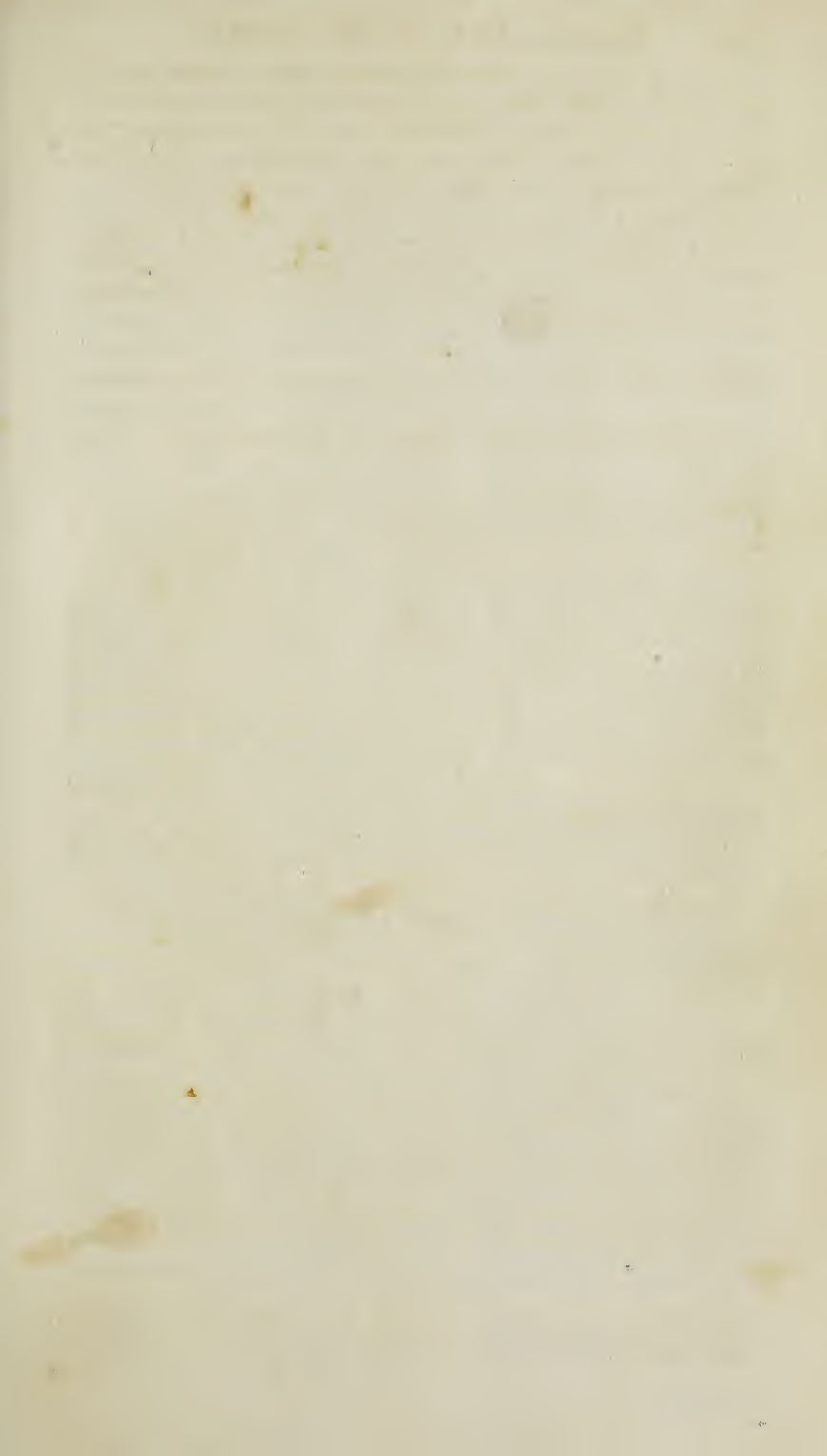
The said Robert Despencer had by gift from the Conqueror the following Manours, which he held at the time of the general survey<sup>b</sup>; viz. Merston, Leth, Filingeli, and Bertanstone, in Warwickshire; Tozintone, Scrivelsbi, Wilgesbi, Endrebi, Parthenai, Butide, Tadewelle, Tulestone, Rocstone, Cuningesbie, Meringhe, Herdertoy, Stepinge, Langetone, and Holtham, in Lincolnshire; Legre, Torp, Redecrive, Cuningestone, Odestone, Esmoditone, Chibarde, Norton, Wicote, Stantone, Sucowe, Sacrestone, Snarchtone, Flechene, Wistanefton, Tiletone, and Sumerdeberie, in Leicestershire; and Wicvene, in Grelestin Hundred, in Gloucestershire.

He was brother to<sup>c</sup> the Earl of Montgomery, and to Urso de Abetot<sup>d</sup>, hereditary Sheriff of Worcestershire, soon after the Conquest; who, in some Records, is call'd Urso de Worcestre, as being constable of the Castle of Worcester, and held, at the time of the general survey, twenty lordships, which descended to Walter de Beauchamp (a great Baron) who married<sup>e</sup> Emeline his only child.

<sup>a</sup> Remains, p. 12 & 126.  
Hist. of Glouc. p. 717.  
Bar. Vol. I. P. . . .

<sup>b</sup> Doomsday, Lib. in iisdem. Com.  
<sup>d</sup> Regist. Wigorn, in Bibl. Cotton.

<sup>c</sup> Atkins's  
• Dug.



1082

27

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1055

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The aforeſaid Robert Deſpencer is mention'd among the Biſhops and Barons, aſſembled in council with King <sup>f</sup> William the Conqueror, in London, A. D. 1082, in the 27th year of his reign; at which time they ſet their hands and ſeals to the charter of Will. de Carilepho, Biſhop of Durham; which ſets forth, that the church of Durham being neglected, and by the barbarity of ſacrilegious perſons, neither monks or canons left therein; he does thereupon determine, to bring the monks from Weremuth and Girwe; alſo, that the liberties of the church of Durham, with the lands (therein particularly mention'd) ſhould be preſerv'd inviolable for ever; laying this anathema on the violators: That all or any perſons, who ſhall preſume to prophane this charter, or change any thing therein, unleſs for the better, “ By the authority of the Prince of the Apoſtles, I deprive them of the ſociety of the Lord, the aforeſaid Pope Gregory, and the Church; and reſerve them, by the judgment of God, to be puniſhed by everlaſting fire, with the devil and his angels. Amen.”

In the next year he was witneſs to a charter of the <sup>g</sup> King's, dated at Weſtminſter in council, for removing the ſecular canons out of the ſame church, and placing monks in their ſtead; to which act the Biſhops and Barons at that time likewiſe ſet their hands and ſeals. He was afterwards witneſs to a grant of the ſame <sup>h</sup> King, of the whole city of Bath, with the coinage and toll thereto belonging, to John, Biſhop of Bath, and his ſucceſſors, for the better ſupport of his ſee.

The monks of Worceſter have recorded this <sup>i</sup> Robert Deſpencer for a very powerful man; and that he took the Lordſhip of Elmeliagh from them, which they could never after regain. He was ſucceeded by.

William le Deſpencer (or Steward) to King Henry I poſſeſſor <sup>k</sup> of the manour of Elington. After whom was Thurſtan le Deſpencer, Steward to the ſame King; of which Thurſtan, Mr. Camden<sup>1</sup> (relating wiſe ſpeeches of King Henry I.) gives an account from the old hiſtorian [Gualterus Mapes de Nugis Curialium,] That Thurſtan, the King's Steward, or Le Deſpencer (as he was then called) exhibiting to the King a complaint againſt Adam of Yarmouth, clerk of the ſignet, for that he reſuſed to ſign, without fee, a bill paſſ'd for him: That Prince thereupon hearing the difference, reconciled them; making this ſpeech, *officers of the court muſt gratify and ſhew a caſt of their office, not only one to another, but alſo to all ſtrangers, whenſoever need ſhall require.* This Thurſtan had, as I take it from records, four ſons, Walter, Lord of Stanley, Uſher of the

<sup>f</sup> Monaſt. Angl. Vol. I. p. 43, b.  
p. 185. b. <sup>i</sup> Regiſt. Wigorn. præd.  
in Bib. Bodl. <sup>1</sup> Remains, p. 247.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid. p. 44. a. <sup>h</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>k</sup> Leland. Collect. Vol. I. p. 840.

Chamber to King Henry II. who died without issue; Almaric, Hugh, and<sup>1</sup> Geoffrey. *+ vide page 372*

Almaric was Sheriff of Rutlandshire <sup>m</sup> Anno 34 Henry II. and 1 Rich. I. and being Steward to the last-mention'd King, enjoy'd of his gift <sup>n</sup> the manour of King's Stanley in Gloucestershire. In 8 Rich. I. he was <sup>o</sup> acquitted of the third scutage of Normandy; and in the 5th of King John, he had a <sup>p</sup> confirmation in Fee of the lordships of Wurdie, and Stanley, in the vale of Gloucester, (being stiled in the record, son of Thurstan, brother and heir of Walter, son of Thurstan); which lordship of Wurdie, King H. II. formerly gave to <sup>q</sup> Walter aforesaid, brother to this Almaric, for his homage and service, for the same a pair of gilt spurs, or twelve pence, to be paid yearly into the Exchequer at the feast of St. Michael the archangel; and to hold by the service of half a knight's fee. And the year after, he gave a fine of one hundred and twenty marks, and one palfry, to be exempted from attending the King in his purpos'd expedition beyond sea. By his charter, sans date, he bestowed the lands which <sup>r</sup> William Delaman held of his Father Thurstan, on the monks of Bruern, com. Oxon. He took to wife Amabil, daughter to Walter de Chesnei, by whom he had issue two sons <sup>s</sup>, Thurstan and Almaric, likewise a daughter, married to <sup>t</sup> William Bardolph.

The said Thurstan Despencer, with his brother Almaric, with Thomas Despencer, and other Barons, took up arms against King John, for the recovery of their privileges; for which the King seiz'd the lands of <sup>u</sup> Almaric, and gave them in the 18th year of his reign, to Osbert Giffard, his own natural son; having the year before committed the custody of Thurstan <sup>x</sup> to Rowland Blewit.

This Thurstan, in the <sup>y</sup> 19th, 20th, and <sup>z</sup> 22d of Hen. III. was Sheriff of Gloucestershire; so likewise for the first quarter of the 23d year; and in the 26th of Hen. III. when he was commanded to attend the King with horse and arms at <sup>a</sup> Xancton, to vindicate the injuries he had receiv'd from the King of France. He died about the 33d of Hen. III. for then the wardship of his lands lying in the counties of Wilts, Surry, Gloucester, Oxon and Worcester <sup>b</sup>, during the minority of his heir, was committed to Adomare de Lezignian, and the manor of <sup>c</sup> Ewelme in Com. Oxon. assigned to Lucia his Widow,

<sup>m</sup> Rot. Pip. de iisd. Ann.

<sup>n</sup> Atkins's Glouc. p. 717.

<sup>o</sup> R. Pip.

8 Ric. I. Salop. Numb. 8.

<sup>p</sup> Cart. An. 5 Joh. N. 52.

<sup>q</sup> Cart. Antiqu. D D.

John Anstis, Ar. Carter, Reg. Armor.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid.

<sup>s</sup> Rot. Pip. 8 Ric. I.

Northampt.

<sup>t</sup> Claus. 18 Joh. m. 7.

<sup>u</sup> Ibid. A. 17 Joh. m. 16.

<sup>y</sup> Atkins's Glouc. p. 73.

<sup>z</sup> R. Pip. 22 Hen. III.

<sup>a</sup> Rymer's Feder.

Vol. I. p. 405.

<sup>b</sup> Claus. 33 Hen. III. m. 3.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.







for her maintenance, till her dowry should be set forth; but the said heir dying unmarried, I now return to

Hugh Despencer, one of the sons of Thurstan, first mentioned, and brother to Geoffrey, of whom I shall hereafter treat. This Hugh Despencer went with King Richard I. to the Holy Land, and was with him<sup>d</sup> at the siege of Acon; after which I find him in the 8th year of King Hen. III. constituted Sheriff of <sup>e</sup> Salop and Stafford, and <sup>f</sup> Governor of the Castles of Salop and Bruges (now commonly called Bridgnorth); as also in the 10th of Hen. III. <sup>g</sup> Sheriff of Berkshire, for the one half of that year, and <sup>h</sup> Governor of Wallingford Castle; having the year following a grant from the King of the <sup>i</sup> manour of Rihal Com. Rutl. likewise in 17th of Hen. III. to be Governor of <sup>k</sup> Bolesover Castle in Com. Derb. and in 21st of Hen. III. was sent, with Stephen de Segrave and Henry de Aldithley, to take charge of the Castles of Chester and Beelton. He was succeeded by another of his name.

Hugh Despencer, who is said by some authorities, to be son of <sup>l</sup> Geoffrey; but by <sup>m</sup> others, to be son of Thomas Despencer, a Witness to the confirmation charter of <sup>n</sup> Ranulph, Earl of Chester, to Roucestre priory, in Com Stafford. And in the 13th of King John, is found with his wife the daughter and heir of Hugh de L'Isle, to <sup>o</sup> hold Lands in the counties of Nottingham and Derby, by knight's service, and I suppose died in that year; for then the said Hugh de L'Isle gave <sup>p</sup> two hundred marks, and an horse of price, for the marriage of his daughter and heir; and in the 15th of that King, William de Cantilupe paid two hundred marks for her, to be a wife for his son <sup>q</sup>; her name being Catharine.

I therefore take the said Hugh to be son of the last Hugh, and being one of the greatest Barons of that time, and taking arms with other nobles, in defence of their antient privileges, he was by them, in the <sup>r</sup> 42d of Hen. III. chosen one of the twelve, who, with twelve other Barons, nominated by the King, were to amend and reform what they should think amiss in the Kingdom: Likewise in the 44th of Hen. III. he was advanced to that great <sup>s</sup> office, of Chief Justiciar of England (which in those days comprehended the jurisdiction of all the present law courts); and in the 48th of Hen. III. appear'd in arms against the King at Northampton. At the battle of Lewes, the 14th

<sup>a</sup> E. Cod. MS. Ashmol. Numb. 1120. in Musæo Oxon. <sup>e</sup> Pat. 8 Hen. III. m. 12. <sup>f</sup> Ibid. <sup>g</sup> Rot Pip. A. 10 Hen. III. <sup>h</sup> Pat. 10 Hen. III. m. 3. <sup>i</sup> Cart. A. 11 Hen. III. m. 3. <sup>k</sup> Pat. A. 17 Hen. III. m. 3. <sup>l</sup> Visit Com. Northampton, A. 1617. <sup>m</sup> E. Coll. R. Glover, Somerset Herald. <sup>n</sup> Mon. Angl. Vol. II. p. 268 b. <sup>o</sup> Lib. Rub. in Seod. <sup>p</sup> Rot. Pip. A. 13 Joh. Northton. <sup>q</sup> Rot. Fin. A. 15 Joh. m. 2. <sup>r</sup> Brady's Hist. of Engl. Vol. I. p. 625. <sup>s</sup> Matt. Westm. in A. 1260, & Matt. Paris.

of May, the same year, he behav'd himself very bravely, taking prisoner <sup>t</sup> Marmaduke de Twenge, who compounded, to pay a ransom of seven hundred marks for his liberty. After this battle (wherein the King was taken prisoner) the Barons made him Governor of <sup>u</sup> Oreford Castle in Com. Suffolk; as also of the Castles of Devises in Wiltshire, Bernard Castle in the bishoprick of Durham, Oxford, and Nottingham: And on the 8th of June following, the King sends his writ <sup>x</sup> for all the cities, burghs and towns on the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk, to be obedient to the directions of Hugh Despencer, his justiciary: Also the 8th of September following, he was constituted one of the six Procurators, and <sup>y</sup> Commissioners, to treat, in the presence of the King of France, and G. Bishop of La Sabina, legat of the apostolick see, or either of them, about the reformation of the state of the Kingdom, with power to do whatever they thought fit in the matter. He was likewise, one of the <sup>z</sup> three that they confided in, to be always about the King. Nevertheless, he afterwards fell from the Barons <sup>a</sup>, being disgusted at the haughty behaviour of Mountfort, Earl of Leicester, who <sup>b</sup> took all the profits, and revenues of the Kingdom, and ransom of prisoners to his own use, which by agreement was to have been divided; and the said Earl was thereupon constituted justiciary in the 49th of Hen. III. However, he put himself in arms again with them, and fighting with great courage at the battle of Evesham, which happen'd on the 5th of August the same year <sup>c</sup> (49 Hen. III.) he there lost his life.

This Hugh (by <sup>d</sup> Oliva his wife, daughter of Philip Bassett of Wicombe, in Com. Bucks, widow of Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk) was father to <sup>e</sup> Hugh le Despencer, of full age, Anno 10 Edward I. who with <sup>f</sup> Hugh le Despencer, his son, are those whom our Historians so largely treat of; differencing them, by Hugh Despencer, senior, and Hugh, junior, the one, Earl of Winchester, Anno 15 Edw. II. and the other (in right of his wife <sup>g</sup> Elianor, eldest daughter, and coheir of Gilbert, Earl of Clare, Gloucester, and Hertford, and of Joan his wife, one of the daughters of King Edw. I.) Earl of Gloucester; both of them the most powerful persons of their time, and possessors of the greatest estates, and the unhappy favourites of King Edw. II.

Hugh, the father <sup>h</sup> had honourably distinguish'd himself under King Edw. I. in his wars in Wales; also in France, Flanders,

<sup>t</sup> Claus. A. 48 Hen. III. m. 8.  
Numb. 11.

<sup>u</sup> Pat. A. 48 Hen. III. m. 7.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid.

<sup>y</sup> Brady's Hist. of Engl. Vol. I. p. 645.

<sup>z</sup> Ibid. p. 649.

<sup>a</sup> Lel. Col. Vol. II. p. 378.

<sup>b</sup> Brady ut antea, p. 650.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 652.

<sup>d</sup> Pat. 49 Hen. III. m. 5.

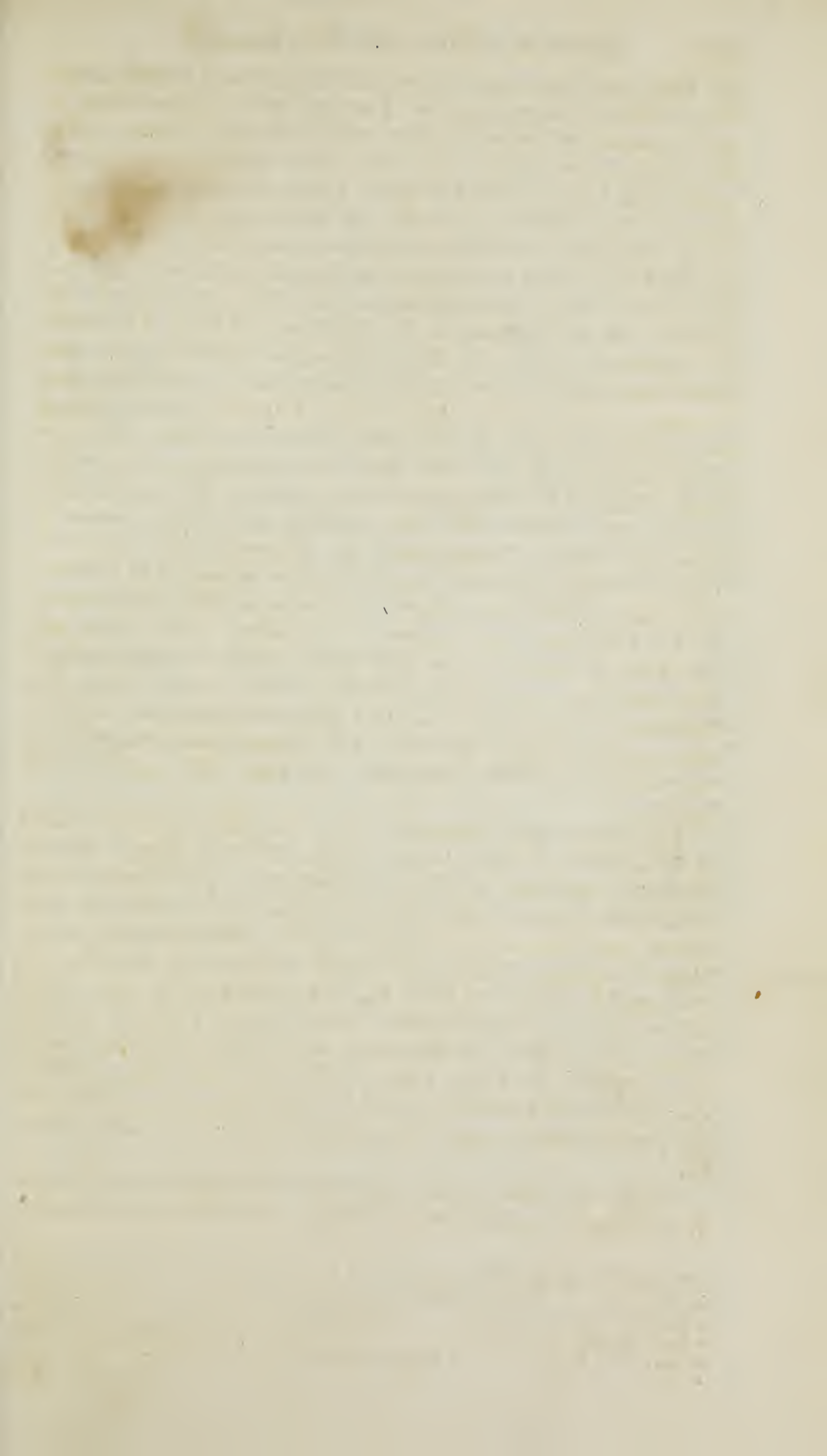
<sup>e</sup> E. Stem. penes Joh. Anstis, Ar. præd.

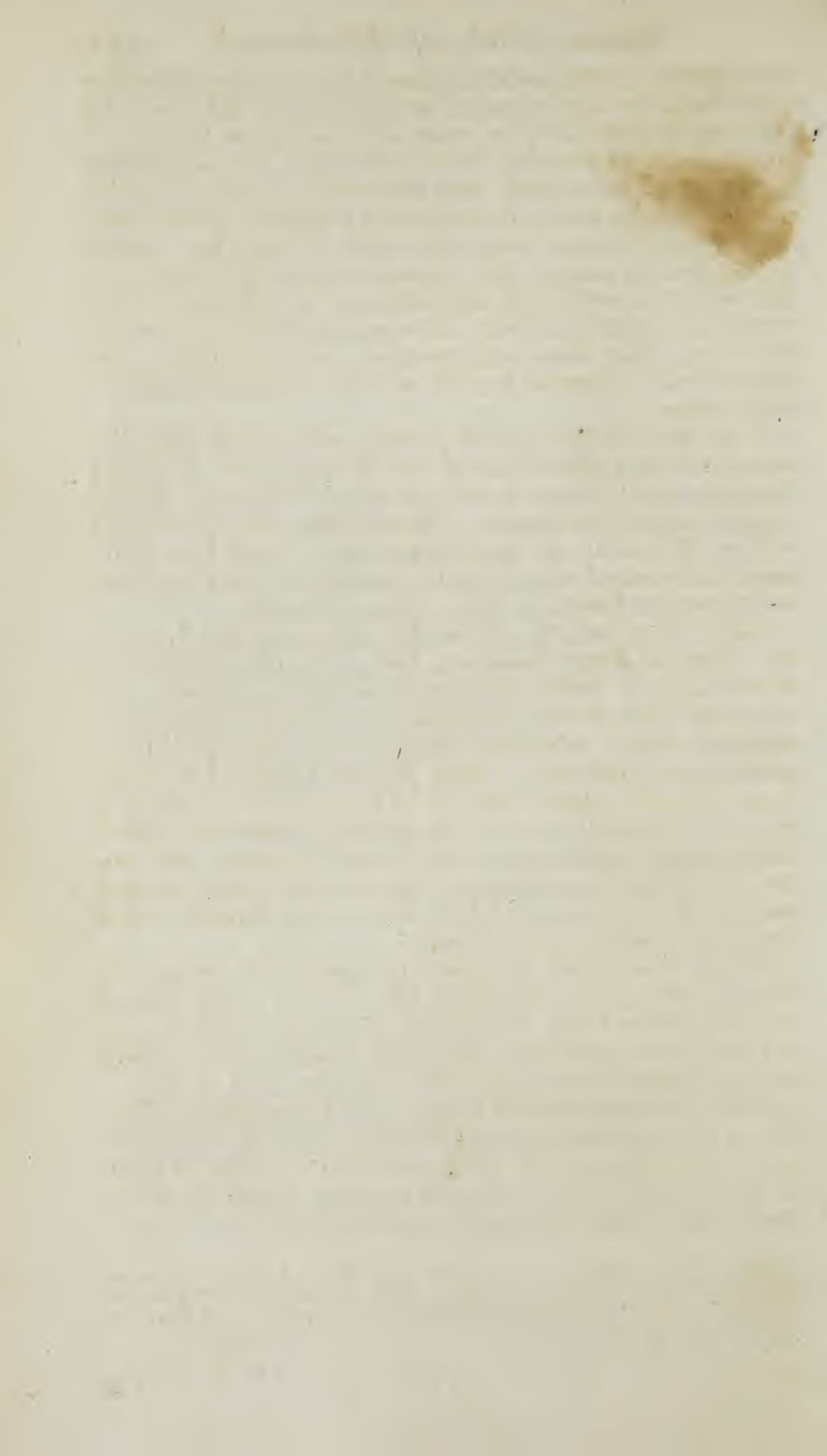
<sup>f</sup> Ibid.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>h</sup> Dugdale's Baron. Brady's Hist. &c.







and Scotland; being likewise employ'd in several great embassies. And Hugh, the son (who was chamberlain to King Edward II.) was not less remarkable for many brave actions in the wars of Scotland and France; but firmly adhering to that unfortunate Prince in all his troubles, they both suffered death, the elder (tho' in the 90th year of his age) being condemn'd unheard, and immediately executed before the face of his own son and the King; and the younger (tho' he had by capitulation safety as to life and limbs, when he stoutly defended the Castle of Kaerfilli) would not forsake his Prince, but venturing with him to the last, and being again taken, underwent the fate of his father; and King Edward, afterward deposed, was barbarously and inhumanly murdered.

This Hugh Despencer, the younger, was one<sup>1</sup> of the godfathers to King Edward III. and left Issue three sons<sup>k</sup>, Hugh, Edward, and Gilbert, as also by other authorities<sup>l</sup>, Philip, ancestor to Sir Philip Spencer, a Baron of the realm, in the reign of King Richard II. the daughter and heir of which line, Margaret, was married to Sir Robert Wentworth, from whom those of that name at Elmsal, in Com. Ebor. descended.

Hugh, the eldest, in 2 Edw. III. being in prison<sup>m</sup>, under the custody of Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, was removed to the Castle of Bristol, there to be detain'd; but some time after, the King ordered his release, and shewing him favour, he betook himself to his service in the wars; being in that expedition into Gascoigne, 7 Edw. III. and in that of Scotland, in 9 of Edw. III. enjoy'd the lands of his mother's inheritance<sup>n</sup>, Anno 11 Edward III. and serving in several expeditions against France, and Scotland, was made a Knight Banneret, and summon'd to parliament, among the Barons, in that reign; but died without issue in the 23d of Edw. III. leaving Edward, son of his brother Edward, his next heir.

Which Edward was summon'd to<sup>o</sup> parliament, among the Barons, from 31 to 39 Edward III. inclusive; and departed this life, in the Castle of Caerdiff, upon Martinmas day, 49 of Edw. III. (a great Baron, and a good Knight, saith Froissard) leaving Thomas, his son and heir, then two years of age.

Which Thomas (called Thomas, Lord Despencer and Morganock) was created Earl of Gloucester by King Richard II. and exhibiting his petition to the parliament<sup>p</sup>, Anno 21 Rich. II. for revocation of the judgment of exile, against his great-grandfather, Hugh le Despencer, had it granted.

<sup>1</sup> Barnes's Hist. Ed. III. p. 1.

Nobil. per Cook Clar. præd.

11 Ed. III. m. 27.

21 Ric. II. Numb. 35.

<sup>k</sup> Mon. Ang. Vol. I p. 156.

<sup>m</sup> Claus. 20 Ed. III. m. 3.

<sup>o</sup> Dugdale's Summons to Parliament.

<sup>1</sup> Geneal.

<sup>a</sup> Rot. Fin.

<sup>p</sup> Rot. Parl.

In which petition <sup>a</sup> it appears that the said Hugh was then possessed of no less than fifty-nine lordships in sundry counties, twenty-eight thousand sheep, one thousand oxen and steers, twelve hundred kyne with their calves, forty mares with their colts of two years, a hundred and sixty drawing horses, two thousand hogs, three thousand bullocks, forty tuns of wine, six hundred bacons, fourscore carkasses of martinmas beef, six hundred muttens; in his lardere, ten tuns of cider, armour, plate, jewels, and ready money, better than ten thousand pounds; thirty-six sacks of wool, and a library of books.

This Earl took to wife <sup>r</sup> Constance, daughter of Edmund of Langley, Duke of York, son to King Edw. III. by whom he left one son, called <sup>s</sup> Richard, who died at 14 years of age; and a daughter, Isabel, who was wife, first, to <sup>t</sup> Richard Beauchamp, Lord Bergavenny, and afterwards Earl of Worcester; but surviving him, without issue, married, secondly, Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, by whom she was mother to Henry, Duke of Warwick, who died without issue male.

Having thus far trac'd the principal branch, I now return to Geoffrey, brother of Hugh, son of Thurstan, first treated of. 2368

Which Geoffrey was the first founder of <sup>u</sup> Marlow Abby, Com. Bucks, and is a witness to King Henry II. Confirmation of lands to <sup>v</sup> Bungey Abby Com. Suff. dated in the 19th year of his reign: Which King among other grants, confirms that of Geoffrey Despencer, of the church of Boynton <sup>y</sup> to Bridlington priory Com. Ebor. He died <sup>z</sup> Anno 26 Hen. III. (1251) leaving issue John, his son and heir, under age, whose guardianship was granted to Emma his mother.

Which John was of full age Anno 40 Hen. III. at which time being stil'd son of Geoffrey, and holding 60 l. per Ann. Land, in Com. Leicester, and 15 in Com. Southampton, he <sup>a</sup> was called to receive the honour of knighthood. In 41 of Hen. III. 1256 Pope Alexander directs his bull, to the bishop of <sup>b</sup> Salisbury; wherein he sets forth that John Despencer, by petition prays, that he may build a chapel, and have a chaplain, in his manour of Swalefield, which he is ready to endow; his said manour lying in a forest, in which he liv'd, and that it was unsafe for him and his family to go to the mother church, by reason many thieves harbour'd in the said forest, and inundations in winter; which matter the Pope refers to the said bishop to determine.

This <sup>c</sup> John, Adam Despencer, and others of this family took part with the Barons in their wars against King Hen. III. and

<sup>a</sup> Rot. Parl. 21 Ric. II. Numb. 60, 64, and 65.

<sup>s</sup> Ibid.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid.

<sup>u</sup> Mon. Angl. Vol. I. p. 445.

<sup>v</sup> Ibid. Vol. II. p. 163.

<sup>y</sup> Visitat. Com. Northampton,

A. 1617.

<sup>z</sup> Lib. MS. in Bibl. Cotton. Claud. c. 2.

Tom. I. p. 610.

<sup>a</sup> Brady's Hist. of England, p. 643.

<sup>r</sup> E. Stemmat.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid. p. 516.

in Coll. Armor.

<sup>b</sup> Rymer's Fœd.









were both taken prisoners at the battle of Northampton; on which account the <sup>d</sup> manours of the said John, viz. Castle-Carlton, and Cavenby, Com. Linc. which he held in right of his wife, were extended by the King; but when the Barons had taken that Prince prisoner, the said John, and Adam, by mutual \* agreement were releas'd; for by the King's writ to Roger de Mortimer, dated 4th of June, 1264, he was order'd to bring them, among other prisoners, (taken in April last, at Northampton fight) to <sup>f</sup> London, in order to their being set at liberty. He died before 3d of Edw. I. for by <sup>g</sup> inquisition taken that year, at Gertre, Com. Leiceſter, he is found to die poſſeſs'd of the manour of Beransby, and the moiety of Wigan de la Mare, with ſeveral other lands; as alſo the hundred of Beaumaner, held of Hugh Deſpencer in foccage, paying annually a pair of gilt ſpurs, price 6 d. and of the houſe and park there, worth yearly 6 s. 8 d. Likewise by another inquisition, dated the ſame year, taken at his manour of Marteley, Com. Wigorn, he is ſaid to die poſſeſs'd of that manour, with the advowſon of the church held in chief of the King, which his father had by gift of King Henry. He had alſo reſtitution of his manours of Caſtle-Carlton, and Cavenby; for by two ſeveral inquisitions the ſame year, he is ſaid to die poſſeſs'd of them, in right of his wife Joan; but having no iſſue of her body alive, he held them only by the courtesy of England; and John de Merieth enter'd on the ſame as his right, by the death of Joan, daughter of Robert le Lou, late wife of the ſaid John Deſpencer, couſin of the aforeſaid John de Merieth, whoſe heir he is, and at that time thirty years old.

This Sir <sup>h</sup> John Deſpencer, had another wife, and left iſſue William le Deſpencer, his ſon and heir, ſlaid of Belton, and one of the jury at an <sup>i</sup> inquisition taken at Bredon 8 June, 34 Ed. I. concerning the right of electing a priorefs of Langley, Com. Leiceſter. He reſided at Defford, in Com. Wigorn; and died poſſeſſed thereof about 3 Edw. III. <sup>k</sup> as appears by an inquisition taken at Perſhore, which likewise ſhews that John was his ſon and heir, and of full age.

Which John, was in the retinue of John <sup>l</sup> King of Caſtile, in his voyage to Spain, and on that account had the King's letters of protection for one year, bearing date 6 march, 1386 (9 R. II.) He was afterwards Eſquire of the body to King Hen. V. alſo <sup>m</sup> keeper of his great wardrobe, and, attending him in his warlike expeditions, was with him at the ſiege of <sup>n</sup> Roan. He

<sup>d</sup> Eſcaet. incerti Temp. R. Hen. III. Numb. 190. in Turr. Lond. ut ſupra.

<sup>f</sup> Rymer's Fæd. Vol. I. p. 791.

<sup>e</sup> Brady,

<sup>g</sup> Eſcaet. 3 Ed. I. Numb. 2.

<sup>h</sup> Vincent's Baronage in Offic. Armor. Numb. 20. Viſit. Com. Northampton in diſt. Offic. Anno 1617.

<sup>i</sup> Monast. Angl. Vol. I. p. 481. b.

<sup>k</sup> Eſc.

A. 3 Ed. III.

<sup>l</sup> Rymer's Fæd. Tom. VII. p. 500.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid. Vol. 9.

p. 271.

<sup>n</sup> Lib. MS. in Muſæo, Aſhmol. Numb. 1120.

had issue by <sup>o</sup> Alice his wife (daughter and heir of . . . Deverell) Nicholas his son and heir.

Who by <sup>p</sup> Joan his wife, daughter of . . . Polard, had issue two sons, Thomas and William.

Which Thomas was father of Henry Spencer, of Badby, in Com. Northampton, Esq; as appears by a <sup>q</sup> receipt dated Anno 13 H. VI. for subsidies then paid to that King.

Which Henry took to wife Isabel, daughter and coheir of . . . . . Lincoln, from whom proceeded four sons, John, Thomas, William, and Nicholas, and died about <sup>r</sup> 17 Edw. IV. his last will and testament bearing date Anno 1476, wherein he appoints his sons, John and Thomas, executors, and Isabel his wife overseer. The seal affixt were the arms the family now bear, *viz. Quarterly in the first and third a Fret, over all on a bend, three Escallops.* He was succeeded by his eldest son,

John Spencer, Esq; who is mentioned in several Deeds of feoffment with Sir Edward Rawleigh of Farneborough, Knight, and others; particularly in 13 and 19 Edw. IV. when he sealed with the arms of his mother and wife together, being both heiresses; *viz. On a Cross, five Stars of six Points* (his mother's); and *a Cheveron between three Ginqfoils*, his wife's, who was daughter and heir of . . . . . Warsted; by whom he had three sons; 1. William, hereafter mentioned; 2. John Spencer, of Hodnell, in Com. Warwick, Esq; who died <sup>s</sup> Anno 12 Hen. VII. and held lands in eighteen several lordships; as appears by his last will and testament, dated 15 Sept. 1486; by which he appoints his body to be buried in the chancel of the parish church of Hodenhull, and constitutes his nephew, John Spencer, of Snitterfeild, Esq; son of his brother William, one of his executors; entailing his lands on him in default of issue male of his son Thomas, and in default of issue of him, the said John, to the heirs males of Thomas, his late brother.

Which Thomas (3d and youngest son) had issue William, who had the estate at <sup>t</sup> Badby, in Com. Northampton; whose son <sup>u</sup> Thomas Spencer, Esq; was of Everton in Bedfordshire, and <sup>x</sup> left four daughters, co-heirs to their brother William Spencer of the said place.

William Spencer, Esq; (eldest son and heir of John) was seated at Rodburne, in Com. Warwick, Anno 1 Hen. VII. (an estate <sup>y</sup> forfeited to the crown by the attainder of William Catesby, Esq;) and having married Elizabeth, sister to Sir Richard Empson, Knt. had issue a daughter, Jane, and two sons, John, and Thomas; who were living Anno 2 Hen. VII.

<sup>o</sup> Visit. Com. Northampton, prædict.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid. & Vincent's Baron. prædict.

<sup>q</sup> Visit. Com. Northampton, prædict.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid.

<sup>s</sup> Reg. Horn. in Cuz

prærog Cant. Qu. 4.

<sup>t</sup> Ex Stemmat. prædict.

<sup>u</sup> Ibid.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid.

<sup>y</sup> Dugdale's Warwickshire, p. 220.







John Spencer, eldest son, was denominated of <sup>z</sup> Snitterfeild, in Com. Warwick; having acquired that estate in right of his wife, Isabel, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Walter Graunt, Esq; and in 12 H. VII. being wrote of that place, was one of the executors to his ~~cousin~~ John Spencer, of Hodenhull. On the 3d of September, 22 Hen. VII. he purchased the great Lordship of <sup>a</sup> Wormleighton, in Com. Warwick, and soon after began the structure of a fair manour house there; in which, (when <sup>b</sup> inquisitions were taken concerning wastes and inclosures of lands in 9 and 10 Hen. VIII.) he was certified, to have his residence therein with sixty persons of his family; being a good benefactor to the church in ornaments and other things.

He was knighted by King Henry VIII. and by his last will and testament <sup>c</sup>, it appears, that he was possessed of a very great estate, was a noble house-keeper, had a great reverence for the clergy, was very liberal to his poor neighbours, as also bountiful to his tenants and servants: He in a manner rebuilt the churches of Wormleighton in Com. Warwick, and Brinton, and Stanton, in Com. Northampton, and gave thereto vestments and chalices: And his other bequests to religious houses, and for reparations of churches, are very numerous, as are also his charities to his servants, and others; whereby it is evident that he had a noble spirit, temper'd with the greatest humanity: He was likewise so honest and just, and of so pious a disposition, " That he requires his Executors to recompense every one that " can lawfully prove, or will make oath, that he has hurt " him in any wise, so that they make their claim within two years, " though (as is recited) he has none in his remembrance; but " he had rather charge their souls, than his own should be in " danger: And requires his executors to cause proclamation " thereof to be made once a month, during the first year after " his decease, at Warwick, Southampton, Coventry, Banbury, Daventry, and Northampton.

" By this testament, which is dated the 12th of April, 1522, " in 13 H. VIII. <sup>d</sup> he bequeaths his body to be buried in the chancel of Brinton church in Com. Northampton, before the image " of our blessed Lady; and that his executors cause a tomb to be " made as nigh the wall as they can behind the sepulture.

He lies buried, according to his appointment, in the church of Brinton, Com. Northampton, as appears by a monument, now remaining on the north side of the south chancel, shewing the figures of a Knight in armour, and his lady in the dress of the times, lying on their backs, under an arch of free-stone, curiously adorned with carvings. At his feet, against the wall, is this inscription in capitals, setting forth his marriage and issue.

<sup>z</sup> Reg. Horn. prædict.

<sup>a</sup> Dugdale's Warwickshire, p. 405.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Ex Reg. voc. Manwaring in Cur. prærog. Cant. qu. 24.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

HERE LIETH THE BODIES OF SIR IOHN  
 SPENCER KNIGHT, AND DAME ISABELL HIS  
 WIFE, ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS AND COHEIERS  
 OF WALTER GRAVNT OF SNITTERFFIELD  
 IN THE COUNTIE OF WAR. ESQUIER HER  
 MOTHER WAS THE DAUGHTER AND HEIRE  
 OF HUMPHRIE RUDINGE OF THE WICH  
 IN THE COVN: OF WORCESTER ESQ: WHICH  
 IOHN AND ISABEL HAD ISSU SIR WILLM X  
 SPENCER KNIGHT. 1. ANTHONY SPENCER  
 2. WHO DIED WITHOUT ISSU, IANE, WIFE  
 TO RICHARD KNIGHTLEY ESQUIER, SONE &  
 HEIRE OF SIR RICHARD KNIGHTLEY OF  
 FAWSLEY IN THE COVNTIE OF NORTH:  
 KNIGHT, ISABELL MARRIED TO SIR NIC<sup>s</sup>  
 STRELLY OF STRELLY IN THE COVTIE  
 OF NOT: KNIGHT, DOROTHYE MARRIED  
 TO SIR RICH: CATESBIE OF LEGER  
 ASHBIE IN THE COVN: OF NORTH: KNI:  
 WHICH SIR IOHN SPENC: DEPARTED  
 THIS LIFE THE 14. OF APR. A<sup>o</sup> D<sup>ni</sup>. 1552. 1522

x The said Sir William Spencer received the honour of <sup>d</sup> knight-  
 hood from King Henry VIII. at York-place (now called White-  
 hall) A. D. 1529. the parliament then sitting; and two years  
 after, viz. in 23 and 24 Hen. VIII. was <sup>e</sup> Sheriff of Northamp-  
 tonshire, during which he died. His last will bears date the 17th  
 of June, Anno 24 Hen. VIII. whereby he bequeaths his body  
 to be <sup>f</sup> buried at Brington, in such manner as his executors  
 should think fit: Orders his father's will to be complied with in  
 every article, not then performed: Appoints Dame Susan, his  
 wife, Sir Nicholas Strelley, Knt. Anthony Cope, Esq; Walter  
 Smith, Esq; and two others his executors, and that they take  
 care of John, his only son, then very young; and dying five  
 days after, viz. 22 June, lies buried according to his desire;  
 and a fine altar tomb, erected to his memory, is now standing  
 against the north-east wall of the north <sup>g</sup> chancel, or burial-  
 place of this family, round the verge whereof is this inscription  
 in old characters.

*Hic Jacent Dominus Will<sup>us</sup> Spencer, Miles & D<sup>na</sup> Suzanna  
 uxor ejus qui obiit xxii<sup>o</sup>. Die me<sup>s</sup> Junij Anno D<sup>ni</sup> Milli<sup>mo</sup>  
 CCCCXXXII. quorum Aiabus propitiatur Deus. Amen.*

\* Nomin Equit. in Bibl. Cotton. Claud. c. 3.  
 Com. Northamp. Autog.

<sup>f</sup> Ex Reg. Thorne, in Cur. pzrog. pradi<sup>ct</sup>.

<sup>e</sup> Fuller's Worthies in  
<sup>g</sup> Ex







Over the said tomb, on a tablet under an arch, is likewise this  
 HERE LIETH THE BODIES OF SIR WILLIAM SPENCER KNIGHT,  
 AND DAME  
 SVSAN HIS WYFE, DAUGHTER OF SIR RICH: KNIGHTLEY  
 OF FAVSLEY IN COMIT.  
 NORTHAMP. KNT. & HAD ISSV BY HER SIR IOHN SPENCER  
 KNT. THERE ONLIE  
 SONNE, ISABEL MARIED TO SIR IOHN COTTON OF LAN-  
 WARDE, IN CO: CAM: KNIGHT  
 IANE WIFE TO SIR RICH. BRVGIS OF SHEFFORD IN CO.  
 BERK: KNIGHT, DOROTHY  
 MARIED TO THO: SPENCER OF EVERTON IN CO: NOR-  
 THAMP. ESQUIRE, ANNE WYFE TO  
 SIR IOHN GOODWIN OF WINCHINGTON IN CO: NORTHAMPT.  
 KNIGHT. WHICH ANNE DIED  
 WITHOVT ISSV. MARIE WYFE TO THO. BOLES OF WALING-  
 TON IN CO. HERTFORDE  
 ESQUIER. WHICH SIR WILLIAM DIED THE XXII. DAYE OF  
 IVNE ANNO DOMINI 1532.

Sir John Spencer, aforesaid, was <sup>h</sup> Sheriff of Northampton-  
 shire, in 5 E. VI. and elected one of the Knights of the shire  
 in parliament for that county in the <sup>i</sup> 1st of Queen Mary, before  
 which time he had received the honour of knighthood. He also  
 served in 4th and 5th of Phil. and Mar. and the year following,  
 was again Sheriff of that county, as also in 13 Eliz. And in the 15th  
 year of the reign of that Queen, was by writ appointed (with other  
 justices of prime quality in the county of Northampton) a <sup>k</sup> com-  
 missioner to enquire after such persons as acted contrary to an act  
 of parliament, 1 Eliz. *Entituled, An Act for the uniformity of the  
 common prayer, and service of the church, and administration of the  
 sacraments.* He was a great oeconomist, yet kept a plentiful  
 table according to the old English way, as is manifest from his  
 last <sup>l</sup> will and testament, bearing date 4 Jan. 1585; wherein  
 he orders hospitality to be kept in his houses at Althorp, and  
 Wormleighton, by his heir after his decease, according as he  
 had done; bestowing likewise several legacies on his servants.  
 It also appears, that he delighted in retiredness, was an encour-  
 ager of industry, and so much averse to an unactive life; that  
 tho' he was possessed of a great estate, he employed his thoughts  
 on husbandry, as of most profit and advantage to his country;  
 for at his death he had numerous flocks of sheep and other  
 cattle in his grounds and parks of Althorp and Wormleighton.

<sup>h</sup> Fuller's Worthies, in Com. Northampton.

Willis, Ar. <sup>k</sup> Rymer's Fœder. Tom. X. p. 724, 725.

p. 1. Qu. 1. in Cur. prærog. prædict.

<sup>l</sup> MS. penes Browne

<sup>l</sup> Reg. Spenser,



He left great estates to four of his sons, who were heads of as many families. *X* Of Sir John Spencer, his eldest son, I am principally to treat. Thomas his second son, built a fine house at Claverdon in Com. Warwick, and for the hospitality he kept thereat (says Sir William Dugdale) was the mirrour of that county. He died without issue male, and a noble monument is erected in the <sup>m</sup> church of that place to his memory; his only daughter and heir Alice, was married to Sir Tho. Lucy of Charlecote, in Warwickshire, Knt. Sir William Spencer, third son, was of Yarnton, in Com. Oxon, which line lately extinguished in daughters. Sir Richard Spencer, 4th son, was of Offley, in Com. Hertford, from whom those of the name in that county are descended.

This Sir John Spencer, in his last will aforesaid, requires his executors to bury him in a decent manner without pomp (after the worldly fashion) in the church of Brinton, where his late wife, dame Catherine Spencer, lieth buried. Also, that they give before his burial, 40*l.* in alms, and cause a tomb, such as they think fit, to be placed where he and his said wife lie buried. Accordingly I find one erected to his memory, neatly painted, gilt and adorn'd with arms (in the middle of two others) in the burial-place of this family, between the <sup>n</sup> south chancel and north chancel, representing, under an arch of elegant workmanship, embellished with roses, lozenges, &c. of different colours, the proportions of a Knight in armour, with his lady, in the habit of the times, lying on their backs, and their hands elevated; over them the atchievement of arms of the family; and at their feet, against the wall, is the following inscription, shewing his marriage and issue.

HERE LIETH THE BODIE OF SIR  
JOHN SPENCER KNIGHT WHO  
MARRIED KATHERINE, ONE  
OF THE DAUGHTERS OF SIR THO.  
KITSON, OF HENGRAVE IN THE  
CO. OF SVFF. KNIGHT, WHICH  
JOHN AND KATH. HAD ISSV SIR  
*X* IO: SPENCER KNIGHT. 2. THOMAS  
SPENCER OF CLAREDON IN THE  
CO. OF WAR. ESQ 3. SIR WILLIAM  
SPENCER OF YARNTON IN THE CO.  
OF OXF. KNT. 4. RICHARD SPENCER  
OF OFFLEY IN THE CO. OF HAR.  
ESQUIRE. 5. EDW. SPENCER WHO  
DIED WITHOUT ISSU. 6. MAR-





GARET MARIED TO GILES  
 ALLINGTON OF HORSETH  
 IN THE COUN. OF CAMB. ESQUIRE  
 AFTER MARIED TO EDWARD  
 ELDRINGTON, ESQUIRE, ELIZABETH  
 MARIED TO GEORGE LORD  
 HYNSDON, KATHERINE MARIED  
 TO SIR THOMAS LEIGH OF  
 STONLIE IN THE COUNTIE  
 OF WAR: KNIG. MARIE WIFE  
 TO SIR EDWARD ASTON OF  
 TIXALL, IN THE COUNTIE OF  
 STAFFORDE, KNIGHT, WHICH  
 DIED WITHOUT ISSU. ANN MARIED  
 TO WILLIAM, LORD MOVNTEGLE,  
 WHO HAD NOE ISSVE BY HIM,  
 AFTER MARIED TO HENRYE  
 LORD COMPTON, NOW WIFE  
 OF ROBERT SACKVILLE, ESQUIRE,  
 SONNE AND HEIRE OF THOMAS  
 LORD BVCKHVRST HIGH  
 TREASVRER OF ENGLAND, ALICE  
 MARIED TO FERDINANDO, EARLE  
 OF DERBIE, NOW WIFE OF SIR  
 THO. EGERTON, KNIGHT, LORD  
 KEPER OF THE GREAT SELE OF  
 ENGLAND, WHICH SIR IOHN  
 SPENCER DEPARTED THIS  
 LIFE THE 8. DAIE OF NOVEMBE.  
 ANNO DOMINI 1586.

X Sir John Spencer (son and heir of Sir John) was • knighted by Queen Elizabeth in the year 1588, the memorable year of the Spanish invasion. He died the 19th of January, 1599, and a fine <sup>p</sup> tomb is likewise erected at Brinton in memory of him; which is opposite to that of his father's, near the middle window of the chapel; and is also curiously embellished with painting and gilding; the figures of him and his lady lying in the same manner; and over them an arch (curiously adorned with roses) supported by 8 pillars, viz. two at each corner, four of which are pyramidical, and painted, the other four black marble, and of the Corinthian order. At the head against the north wall, is the following inscription.

THIS IS THE MONUMENT OF SIR IOHN SPENCER  
 KNIGHT, AND DAME MARIE HIS WIFE, SOLE



DAUGHTER AND HEIRE OF SIR ROBERT CATELIN KNIGHT, LORD CHEIF IVSTICE OF THE KINGS BENCH, WHO HAD ISSU ONLY SIR ROBERT SPENCER KNT. WHO MARIED MARGARET, ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS AND COHEIRS OF SIR FRANCIS WILLVGHBY, OF WOLLATON IN THE COUNTIE OF NOTTINGHAM, KNIGHT, WHICH SIR IOHN SPENCER DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE IX DAYE OF IANVARIE 1599.

The said Sir Robert Spencer, was <sup>a</sup> sheriff of Northamptonshire in the 43d of Elizabeth; before which time he had received the honour of knighthood; and when King James ascended the throne, was reputed to have by him the most money of any person in the kingdom; which, together with his great estate, noble descent, and many excellent accomplishments, rendered him so conspicuous, that he was promoted by that Prince, before his <sup>s</sup> coronation, by letters patents bearing date 21 July, to the dignity of a Baron of this realm, by the title of Lord Spencer, of Wormleighton, the ceremony of his creation being performed at Hampton-Court. Soon after which, the learned Camden writing his *Britannia*, makes this honourable mention of him, viz. <sup>u</sup> “*Althorp the seat of the noted family of Spencer, Knights, allied to very many houses of great worth and honour, out of which Sir Robert Spencer the 5th Knight in a continued succession, a worthy encourager of virtue and learning, was by his most serene Majesty King James, lately advanced to the honour of Baron Spencer of Wormleighton.*”

And another <sup>x</sup> author, who wrote of those times, gives this account of him, “*Spencer (like the old Roman chosen dictator from his farm) made the country a virtuous court, where his fields and flocks brought him more calm and happy contentment than the various and mutable dispensations of a court can contribute: And when he was called to the senate, was more vigilant to keep the people’s liberties from being a prey to the encroaching power of monarchy, than his harmless and tender lambs from foxes and ravenous creatures.*”

This Lord Spencer, in the 1st year of the reign of King James (by commission bearing date at Woodstock the 18th day of September) was appointed ambassador to present <sup>r</sup> Frederick, Duke of Wirtemberg, with the habit and ensigns of the most noble order of the garter. He set out in the beginning of October, Anno 1603, accompanied with many persons of qua-

<sup>a</sup> Fuller’s Worthies, prædict.

<sup>r</sup> Lloyd’s Memoirs of Loyalists, p. 431.

<sup>s</sup> Pat. 1 Jac. 1. p. 14.

<sup>u</sup> Camden’s Annals of K. James.

<sup>u</sup> Britain,

in Com. Northamp.

<sup>x</sup> Wilson’s Life of King James, in Hist. of England,

Vol. II.

<sup>y</sup> Ashmole’s Order of the Garter, p. 411, &c.







lity; and on the 2d of November following, arriving at the city of Stutgard, was received with the highest respect and honour by the Duke, who had made great preparations for his reception. He sent for his three sons, with their tutors, from the castle of Tubing (where they followed their studies) to be present at the installation; likewise ordered the vice-president and 12 assistants of his ducal consistory, with all the principal and most noble persons of his court, to attend; appointing an English Lord, with the Lord Benjamin Buningkhaufin, one of his privy council, to be principal contrivers, directors, and managers, of all things that should belong to the setting forth the solemnity.

The state and magnificence of this investiture is set forth by Mr. Ashmole; who observes, that the Lord ambassador Spencer, who represented the Sovereign, and the elect Duke, were so richly attired, glittering with gold and jewels, that they attracted the admiration of all the spectators.

The Duke omitted nothing that might tend to the satisfaction of the Lord Ambassador and his train. He shewed them the principal places of his Dukedom, as Waltebuch, the University of Tubing, &c. entertained them with comedies, musick, and other diversions; and on their return to England, he accompanied the Lord Spencer as far as Asperg, taking leave of him with the greatest demonstrations and expressions of affection and esteem. On his arrival in England, he was received, by his Prince, with particular marks of distinction, for his noble carriage and behaviour in his embassy.

I don't find that he bore any employment at court, but he constantly attended his duty in parliament, and on all proper occasions, appeared a loyal subject to the King, as well as a good patriot and a maintainer of the liberty of the subject. He had excellent parts, which were improved and cultivated by a close application to the service of his country, and knowledge of men and business, whereby he grew into the esteem of the greatest men of that age. His quick apprehension and readiness of thought was very remarkable, as will hereafter appear; and in the debates in parliament as few spoke better, so none had a more favourable attention; on which account he was nominated in most committees on publick affairs and conferences with the commons, as appears by the <sup>2</sup> journals of the house of lords, whereof I shall instance some particulars.

In 9 Jac. I. 1610, he was of the committee for managing a conference with the commons concerning the great contract with his Majesty touching tenures. In the year 1620, one of the committee to take into consideration the customs and orders of the house, and privileges of the Peers of the King-

<sup>2</sup> Journal Procerum in Bibl. Mediæ Templi,

dom; also one of the 16 principal lords appointed to inspect ten publick bills for the good and service of his Majesty and the estate, presented by Walter Morell, gent. Likewise in that session, on a message of the house of Commons, that they had entered into a due consideration of diverse heavy grievances, &c. concerning which they desired a conference with their Lordships. He was appointed with others (whereof his Royal Highness the Prince was one) to confer with them. Moreover, with that Prince, and other principal Lords, had under consideration the erecting of an academy, and what qualities, arts, sciences, and exercises should be there taught and practised; which was occasioned by a motion of the Lord High Admiral (and generally approved) that forasmuch as the education of youth, especially of quality and worth, is a matter of high consequence, it was therefore necessary to provide that such persons, in their tender years do not spend their time fruitless about the town, or elsewhere, but that some good course might be taken for erection and maintenance of an academy, for the breeding and bringing up of the Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdom, in their younger years; and for a free and voluntary contribution from persons of honour and quality for that purpose.

This Lord Spencer, first made the motion (on a difference between the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Treasurer) that no Lords should be named greater than others, as being all Peers, to which the house agreed; and the same day (12 March) with his Royal Highness, &c. was appointed one of the select committee to confer with the house of Commons, both to demand of them such letters patents, warrants, examinations, and other writings, which concerned chief greivances, and to receive from them by word of mouth, such further informations as might conduce to the proving such greivances, as they had complained of. In the examination whereof he put the question, *That Sir Allen Apsey and three others who abused the execution of patents, and were guilty of monopolizing, might be taken into custody*; to which the house agreed.

In the said affair, he was one of the ten principal lords for preparing heads of the validities, and the inconveniencies arising by patents, penal statutes for inns, grants of monopolies, grants of concealments, &c. all which they redress'd; and in the examination thereof, the Lord Chancellor Bacon was detected of bribery and other indirect practices. A bill for the better discovering and repressing popish recusants, and several other publick accounts, were likewise under his consideration in committees.

On the 14th of May, 1621, the bill for prohibiting and reforming prophane cursing and swearing was committed to him, the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Treasurer, and  
nine









nine other principal Lords; and he with the Lord High Admiral the Lord High Steward, and nine others, were appointed to consider of the petition of the fishermen, dredgers, and other seafaring men, and to meet on Thursday the 8th of May; on which day he was one of the eighteen (especially appointed) to manage a conference with the Commons, concerning the privileges of their house; wherein the Lords conceived the Commons had trenched, but were desirous to continue that good respect and correspondency, which had been between both houses all the parliament; and they were appointed to meet the Commons the 11th of May, when this protestation was agreed and entred in the journal of the house of Commons, viz. “ That the proceeding lately passed in the house of Commons against Edward Floud, be not any time hereafter drawn or used as a precedent, to the enlarging or diminishing of the lawful rights or privileges of either house, but that the rights and privileges of both houses shall remain in the self same state and plight as before.” He was likewise of the committee for managing a conference with the commons concerning monopolies.

Our historians inform us, that in this parliament many debates arose relating to the King’s power and prerogative; and that this <sup>a</sup> Lord Spencer stood up boldly for the publick liberty (with the Earls of Oxford, Southampton, Essex, and Warwick); and speaking something in the house of the actions of their great ancestors, Arundel, Earl Marshal of England, a great stickler for the prerogative, displeased with the arguments used, reply’d, *My Lord, when these things were doing, your ancestors were keeping sheep* (alluding to the numerous flocks kept by his Grandfather): To which the Lord Spencer, with a spirit and quickness of thought peculiar to him, immediately answered (more truly) *When my ancestors were keeping sheep (as you say) your ancestors were plotting treason.* This caused such a heat, that Arundel, as the aggressor, was sent to the Tower; but soon after acknowledging his fault, and offering to make his submission, he was discharged.

In the same <sup>b</sup> year he, with thirty-two other Lords, petition’d the King, “ For that many of his subjects of the realm of England had been honoured with titles and dignities in Scotland and Ireland, by which all the Nobility of this realm, either in themselves, their children, or both, find they are prejudic’d; they therefore pray they may challenge and preserve their birthrights, and that no more notice may be taken of those titles than the law of the land doth; and that they may be excus’d, if in civil courtesy they give them not the respect or place as to noblemen strangers, seeing that they being their

<sup>a</sup> Echard’s Hist. of England, Vol. I. p. 955.

<sup>b</sup> Wilton’s Life of King

“ countrymen, born and inheritanced under the same laws,  
 “ their families and abode among them, have yet procured their  
 “ translation into foreign names, only to their injury.” But  
 this their petition the King took ill, and reprimanded the  
 Lord Spencer, as being (I suppose) the chief promoter of  
 it.

In the parliament following, that met at Westminster 19th  
 of Feb. 1623, (21 Jac. I.) he only staid a few days, obtaining  
 ‘ leave (the 1st of March) of the house to be absent; but in the  
 succeeding parliaments, to the time of his death, he was in  
 most committees on publick affairs, a constant maintainer and  
 promoter of the manufactories, trade, and liberties of the realm,  
 an opposer of all arbitrary grants, monopolies, or other indirect  
 practices; and, finally, was season’d with a just tincture of all  
 private and publick virtues. He lived a widower thirty years,  
 (his lady dying in childbed) and departing this life the 25th of  
 October, 1627; was buried in great splendor with his ancestors  
 at Brinton, the 5th of November following, under a noble  
 monument at the head of his grandfather, under a like arch equal-  
 ly adorn’d, but supported by four pillars of the Corinthian Or-  
 der. The figures of him and his lady are likewise in the same  
 posture, he in armour, with a helmet on his head; she in the  
 dress of the times, veil’d to the knees. At their feet, under the  
 arch, on a black marble tablet, is the following Memorial of  
 his marriage and issue, in gold letters.

HEERE LYE THE BODIES OF SIR ROBERT SPENCER KNIGHT  
 BARON SPENCER  
 OF WORMLEIGHTON & MARGARET HIS WIFE ONE OF  
 THE DAUGHTERS &  
 COHEIRES OF SIR FRANCIS WILLOWGHBY OF WOLLATON  
 IN THE CO: OF  
 NOTTING: KNIGHT WHO HAD ISSUE 4 SONNES & 3  
 DAUGHTERS VIZ. 1. IOHN SPENCER ESQUIRE WHO DIED  
 AT BLOIS IN FRANCE WITHOUT  
 ISSUE. 2. WILLIAM LORD SPENCER WHO MARRIED THE  
 LADY PENELOPE  
 ELDEST DAUGHTER OF HENRY EARLE OF SOVTHAMPT.  
 3. RICHARD SPENCER  
 ESQUIRE. 4. EDWARD SPENCER OF BOSTON IN THE CO:  
 OF MIDD: KNIGHT  
 (WHO MARRIED DAME MARY, WIDOW OF SIR WIL-  
 LIAM READE OF AVST-  
 ERLEY IN THE SAME CO: KNIGHT) 1. MARY MARRIED  
 TO SIR RICHARD

\* Camden's Annals in Hist. of England, p. 658.

• Ex Autog.

• Journal procer prædict.







ANDERSON OF PENLY IN THE CO: OF HARTFORD,  
KNIGHT. 2. ELIZABETH  
MARRIED TO SIR GEORGE FANE, OF BVSTON IN THE  
CO: OF KENT, KNT.  
WHO DIED WITHOV'T ISSVE. 3. MARGARET WHO DIED  
VN MARRIED.  
WHICH ROBERT LORD SPENCER, DEPARTED THIS LIFE  
THE 25 OF OCTOBER.  
ANNO DOMINI 1627, AND MARGARET HIS WIFE THE  
17. OF AVGVST. 1597.  
ROBERT LORD SPENCER, EVILT THIS MONVMENT IN  
HIS LIFE, ANNO 1599.

William, Lord Spencer aforesaid, was made Knight of the honourable order of the <sup>f</sup> Bath, at the creation of Prince Charles Anno 1616; and was elected, all the while he was a Commoner, one of the Knights of the <sup>e</sup> Shire for the county of Northampton, in three several parliaments in the reign of King James I. and in two others call'd in the first year of the reign of King Charles I. He inherited his father's excellent conduct, as well as his honour and estate, as we are fully inform'd from the inscription hereafter mention'd; which sets forth, that he was adorn'd with all virtues, a tender husband, loving father, faithful friend, a sincere worshipper of God, a most devoted subject to his King, and patriot to his country. He died in the 45th year of his age, on the 19th of December, and was buried at <sup>h</sup> Brinton the 27th of the same month 1636. Penelope, his lady, whom he left with child, remain'd a widow one and thirty years (having Sepulture at Brinton 16 July, 1667) leaving a very shining character, for her constancy of mind, prudent conduct, unaffected piety, and love to her deceas'd Lord; for whom she erected a noble and stately <sup>i</sup> monument of black and white marble, now remaining at Brinton, the figures of a Baron and Barones in their robes of state, lying on a black marble tomb, their hands lifted up in a praying posture; and over them an arch of black and white marble, supported by eight black marble pillars of the Corinthian order, with white capitols. And the following inscriptions are on four several black Marble Tablets, viz. at the East end.

<sup>f</sup> Catal. Nobil. &c. per T. W. London, 8°. 1642.  
prædict.

<sup>h</sup> Reg. Eccl. paroch. Brinton.

<sup>e</sup> MS. B. Willis  
<sup>i</sup> Ex Autog.

## POSTERITATI SACRVM.

CLARISSIMO ET NOBILISSIMO HEROI GVLIELMO SPENCER, PRÆNOBILIS ORDINIS BALNEI MILITI BARONI DE WORMLEIGHTON.

FILIO ET HÆREDI ROBERTI SPENCER, MILITIS BARONIS DE WORMLEIGHTON

VIRO VIRTVTIBUS ORNATISSIMO,  
MARITO CHARISSIMO  
PATRI AMANTISSIMO

SINCERISSIMO DEI CVLTORI,

AMICO FIDELISSIMO

DEVOTISSIMO

{ REGIS SVBDITO

{ PATRIÆQ. SERVO.

HENRICVM MODO BARONEM DE WORMLEIGHTON ELIZABETHAM NVPTAM, IOHANNI CRAVEN ARMIGERO,  
ROBERTVM MARIAM OLIM DEFVNCTAM  
GVLIELMV ANNAM  
RICHARDVM KATHERINAM  
THOMAM ALICIAM  
IOHANNEM MARGARETAM

QVI SEX  
FILIOS,

ET SEPTEM FILIAS,

DE LECTISSIMA CONSORTE SVA DVINA PENELOPE SPENCER FILIA NATV MAXIMA HONORATISSIMI DOMINI

HENRICI COMITIS SOUTHAMTONIÆ GENVIT IPSAMQVE PREGNANTEM ET LVCTV ET FILIA  
RELIVIT DECIMO NONO DIE DECEMBRIS, REDEMPTORIS SVI. 1636.  
ANNO ÆTATIS SVÆ. 45°.

CONIVGII SVI. 22°.

PIE IN IESV SVO OBDORMIVIT

HOC DOLORIS SVI AMORISQVE ÆTERNVM MONVMENTVM VXOR LVGENS, P. & D. NIHIL MAGIS IN  
VOTIS HABENS QVAM VT CVM MARTO SVO DELECTISSIMO IN HOC DORMITORIO QVIESCAT & AD  
FÆLICEM ÆTERNITATEM CVM EODEM VNA REQVIESCAT.







At the west end

DEPOSITUM CUSTODIT AD TEMPUS  
STATUTUM REDDETQUE INTIGRUM.

On the north side,

TUBA PRORUMPENS IN SILENTIUM SEPULCHRI  
OSSA GERMINANTIA RESUSCITABIT AD  
GLORIAM.

On the south side,

EPICÆDIUM.

Junxit Amor teneros Virtute & Sanguine Charos  
Crevit Amor junctis tempore prole Deo  
Idem velle fuit nolle idem; animusque duobus  
Unus erat Vivis unaque vera fides  
Mors tantum potuit vivos superare Sepulchro  
Non potuit tandem, junget & Urna Dies.

Of the sons and daughters mention'd in the said inscription, Henry succeeded in the honour and estate.

Robert, second son <sup>k</sup>, baptized 2 February, 1628, was created a Peer of Scotland, by the title of Viscount Tiviot; and having married Jane, Daughter of Sir Thomas Spencer of Yarnton in Com. Oxon. Bart. died without issue.

William, third son, was seated at Ashton-hall, in Com. Lancafter, and died without issue.

Richard, fourth son, baptized 3 Oct. 1631, departing this life unmarried, was buried at Brinton, 11 Feb. 1653.

Thomas and John died young, or unmarried.

Of the daughters, Elizabeth, born 16 Feb. 1617, and baptiz'd 17 Mar. following, was married at Brinton, 4 Dec. 1634, to John Craven, Esq; who was created Lord Craven of Ryton, in Com. Salop; and after his decease, to Henry Howard, third son to Thomas, Earl of Berkshire; and lastly to William, Lord Crofts.

Mary, baptiz'd 20 Feb. 1621, died 12 July, 1622.

Anne, married to Sir Robert Townshend.

Katharine, baptiz'd 17 Oct. 1624, died unmarried.

Alice, baptized 29 Dec. 1625, was wedded to Henry Earl of Drogheda of the kingdom of Ireland.

Margaret, baptiz'd 19 July, 1627, was the third wife of the right honourable Anthony Cooper, Earl of Shaftsbury, who made so considerable a figure in the reign of King Charles II.

Rachel, born after her father's decease, was baptiz'd 19 July, 1627, and died young.

A curious antiquary hath evidently made out, that the said Lady Penelope (their mother) eldest daughter of Henry Wriothesly, Earl of Southampton, was in sundry ways extracted from

\* Reg. Eccl. Brinton, prædict.



the Kings of England, Scotland, France, Hierufalen, Spain, Portugal, and Navarre.

Henry Lord Spencer the eldest fon of the said Lady Penelope, and William Lord Spencer, was born<sup>1</sup> at Althorp, and christen'd the 23 November, 1620. He had from his youth a<sup>m</sup> forward inclination to learning, and being under an austere tutor, the quickness of his apprehension, and solid judgment, far above his years, led him to the exercise of all generous recreations. He had university education<sup>n</sup> at Magdalen College, in Oxford, before he was sixteen years of age; and in 1636, King Charles and his Queen, honouring the University with their presence, it was his Majesty's pleasure there should be creations in several faculties. Whereupon the Secretary of State having deliver'd to the Chancellor, the names of those nominated by his Majesty, a convocation was celebrated the 31st of August, and the degree of Master of Arts was conferred on the Lord Spencer.

At nineteen years of age, the Earl of Southampton, his guardian, and the Lady Penelope, his mother, contracted with Robert, Earl of Leicester, • for the marriage of his daughter the Lady Dorothy Sydney, with his Lordship, who being in his minority, he with his mother the said Lady Penelope, petitioned his Majesty, to give special directions for his letters of privy seal, ordering his Judges of the court of Common Pleas, to admit the Lord Spencer by his guardian, to suffer a common recovery, of his manors, and lands, that he might be enabled to settle a jointure, on the said Lady Dorothy<sup>p</sup>. And the King was graciously pleased to give directions accordingly.

The marriage was consummated at Penshurst, the 20th of July 1639, as Robert Earl of Leicester writes in his journal (now remaining there) and that in August following, he returned to his embassy in France, and his wife followed him thither, with his new son in law, and his daughter, his wife, who arrived at his house in Paris before Michaelmas.

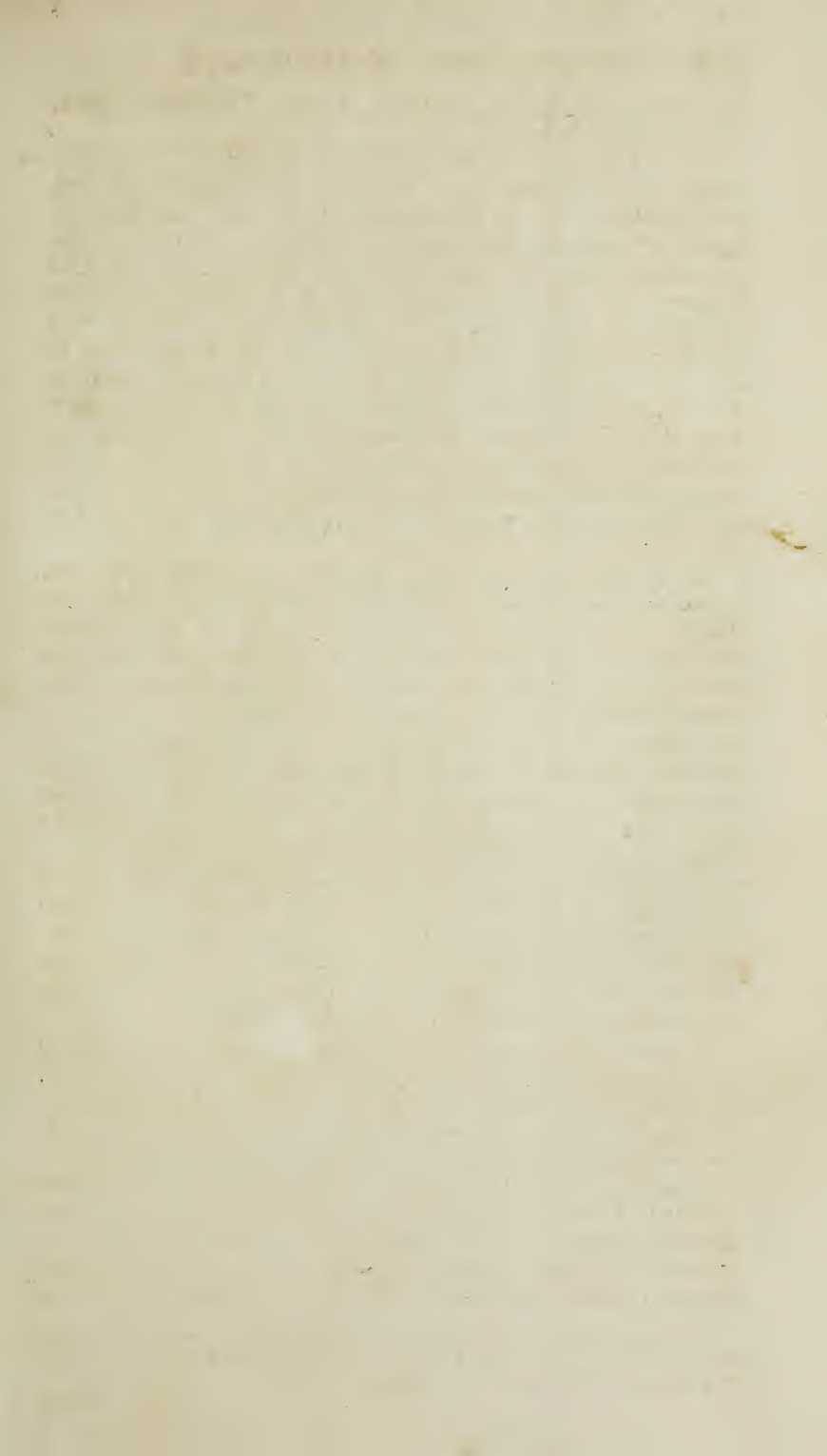
It appears by manuscript papers, now remaining in the Sidney family, that Lord Spencer with his Lady, continued at Paris, till the Earl of Leicester's return into England, in the beginning of October 1641. She was a Lady of uncommon beauty, virtue and merit, with all accomplishments; and under the name of Sacharissa, is highly celebrated by the famous Waller in his poems. The Lord her husband, had also an excellent understanding, joined to a fine person, and was distinguished for his early judgment of men and affairs; and an entire love was between them, manifested by letters I have seen from both of

<sup>1</sup> Ex Regist. Eccles. de Brington, in Com. Northamp.  
of the Loyalists, p. 431.

• Ex Autog. apud Penshurst.

<sup>m</sup> Lloyd's Memoirs  
<sup>n</sup> Wood's Fasti Oxonienses, Vol. I. p. 886, 887.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid.





them, in the evidence room at Penhurst, the residence of the Earls of Leicester.

He took his seat in the House of Peers, immediately after his return from beyond the seas, the parliament then sitting; and his eminent abilities made him courted by both parties to be in their interests. But his natural love of the liberties of his country, which his ancestors had asserted, soon determined him to fall in with them, who were detecting the indirect practices of those counsellors, that had violated the laws, wherein he so far concurred, as to be<sup>a</sup> nominated by them their Lord Lieutenant for the county of Northampton. Yet he had an unquestioned duty to the crown, and reverence for the government, both in church and state; for when he saw they were throwing off all obligations to conscience, and the laws of the land, he courageously declared in parliament<sup>r</sup>, (the last words he spoke there) *That they might have been satisfied long before, if they had not asked things that deny themselves; and if some men had not shuffled demands into their propositions, on purpose that they might have no satisfaction.*

Being determined to follow his Majesty and pursue his measures, as far as he found them consistent with the rights of his country, he though very young prudently made a disposition of his estate before he set out for his seat at Althorp with his Lady and family, having then a son, and a daughter, Robert, and Dorothy. On 30 June 18 Car. I. according to a power given him, for leading the uses of divers common recoveries, suffered before his marriage<sup>s</sup>, he demises to Thomas Earl of Southampton, Robert Earl of Leicester, Philip Lord Lisle, Algernon Sydney, Richard Spencer Esquires, and Sir Edward Spencer, the manors of Wormleighton, Priors-marston, Priors-hardwick, and Fenny Compton, with all his lands, tenements, &c. in Warwickshire. The manors of Althorp, Great Brington, Stonton, Little Brington, Newbottle, Grove alias Byefield, Over-Bodington, and Nether-Bodington, in the county of Northampton; and all his lands, tenements, &c. there, or elsewhere, in the said county (except both the jointures of his mother and his own Lady, and all leases for lives) to hold from the first of May, for the term of 21 years. Yielding and paying to him the said Henry Lord Spencer, and to such person, or persons, to whom the immediate reversion, or remainder of the premises respectively shall belong, the yearly rent of twelve hundred pounds. Upon trust to employ the profits above that rent, in such manner, as he the said Lord Spencer, by writing, subscribed in the presence of two or more witnesses, or by his will shall appoint.

<sup>a</sup> Clarendon's Hist. of the Rebel. 8<sup>o</sup>. Vol. I. p. 652.  
p. 431.

<sup>s</sup> Ex Evident, apud Penhurst.

<sup>r</sup> Lloyd's Memoirs,



And pursuant thereto, his Lordship, by writing<sup>t</sup>, bearing date the 11th of July, 1642, under his hand, subscribed in the presence of Algernon Sydney, Dr. Henry Hammond, and two other witnesses, reciting that he had demised to his said trustees before mentioned, the said mannors, &c. Upon trust &c. Now he the said Henry Lord Spencer, desires and declares, that the said Thomas Earl of Southampton, Robert Earl of Leicester, and other his said trustees, shall permit him, or his assigns to take the profits of the said manors, lands, &c. during his life, and if he dies before the said term be expired, that then his trustees shall out of the profits of the said lease made to them, raise the sum of 1000 l. for a legacy, for the Lady Lucy Sidney; and the sum of 3000 l. for a legacy, to his dear wife Dorothy Lady Spencer; and the sum of 10000 l. for the portion of his daughter, Dorothy Spencer; to be paid on the day of her marriage, or in case she continue unmarried till the age of 21 years; that then she receive the full interest of her portion, and from the age of 17, till 21, receive three hundred pounds yearly for her maintenance; and till the age of 17, fitting maintenance. Also that the sum of seven thousand pounds be raised for the portion of the child his Lady is big of, to be paid (if it be a son) at the age of eighteen years, if it be a daughter, at the day of her marriage, and if unmarried till 21, then to receive the full interest of her portion &c. as before recited. And if they die unmarried, then the said portions to be divided in three parts, one in their power to dispose of, and the other two to be equally divided amongst his other children, his son Robert Spencer and his daughter or son that shall be living. And after the said legacies &c. raised as aforesaid, that then the said Thomas Earl of Southampton, and his said trustees, shall permit his right heir to take the profits of the premises, during the rest of the said term. In witness, &c.

Lloyd, who has given some confused account of his Lordship, relates <sup>u</sup>, *That he brought 15000 l. and 1200 men to his Majesty's relief, and to the Earl of Northampton his country man's assistance, adding his counsel, and personal service.* It's certain he followed his Majesty to York, and from thence to Nottingham, where his standard was erected the 25th day of August 1642. From thence he marched with the King to Shrewsbury<sup>\*</sup>, where he wrote the following most remarkable letter, the greatest part of it in cypher, and decyphered, by his Lady; bearing date at Shrewsbury, the 21st of September, 1642.

<sup>t</sup> Ex Evident. præd. *rials*, Vol. II. p. 657.

<sup>u</sup> *Memoirs*, p. 432.

<sup>\*</sup> *Sidney's Memo-*







My Dearest Hart,

“ The King’s condition is much improved of late ; his force  
 “ increaseth daily, which increaseth the insolency of the papists.  
 “ How much I am unsatisfied with the proceedings here, I  
 “ have at large expressed in several letters. Neither is there  
 “ wanting handsome occasion to retire, were it not for grin-  
 “ ning honour. For let occasion be never so handsome, unless  
 “ a man resolved to fight on the parliament’s side, which, for  
 “ my part, I had rather be hanged, for it will be said a man is  
 “ afraid to fight. If there could be an expedient found to save  
 “ the punctilio of honour, I would not continue here an hour.  
 “ The discontent that I, and many other honest men, receive  
 “ daily is beyond expression. People are much divided ; the  
 “ King is of late very much averse to peace, by the perswa-  
 “ sions of 202 and 111. It’s likewise conceived that the King  
 “ has taken a resolution not to do any thing in that way before  
 “ the Queen comes ; for people advising the King to agree  
 “ with the parliament, was the occasion of the Queen’s return.  
 “ Till that time no advice will be received ; nevertheless the  
 “ honest men, will take all occasions to procure an accomoda-  
 “ tion ; which the King when he sent the late messages did  
 “ heartily desire ; and would still make offers, but for 202 and  
 “ 111, and the expectation of the Queen, and fear of the  
 “ papists, who threaten people of 342. I fear the papists threats,  
 “ have a much greater influence upon 83 [King] then upon  
 “ 343. What the King’s intentions are to those that I con-  
 “ verse with, are altogether unknown ; some say, he will hazard  
 “ a battle very quickly ; others say, he thinks of wintering ;  
 “ which as its suspected, so if it were generally believed 117  
 “ [Sunderland] and many others, would make no scruple to  
 “ retire ; for I think it is as far from gallant, either to starve  
 “ with the King, or do worse, as to avoid fighting. It is said  
 “ the King goes on Friday towards Chester, for a day or two,  
 “ leaving his forces here ; which are 6000 foot, 1500 dragoons,  
 “ and above 2000 horse. There are 4000 foot more rais-  
 “ ed, they say, 2000 by my Lord Strange, 1000 by Sir  
 “ Thomas Salisbury, and 1200 by Sir Edward Stradling ; all  
 “ which will be here within a few days. This is a lightning  
 “ before death,

I am your, &c.

SPENCER.

The Earl of Clarendon relates <sup>r</sup>, that some carriage horses and waggons, which were prepared for the service in Ireland, and lay at Chester to be transported with the Earl of Leicester,

<sup>r</sup> Hist. of Rebell. 8<sup>o</sup>. Vol. III. p. 35, 36.

Lieutenant of that Kingdom, were brought to Shrewsbury by his Majesty's order, which encreased the necessity the King was in for money; and that the papists were treated with for a supply, which they complied with: Whereupon the King with his army<sup>z</sup> marched from Shrewsbury the 12th of October, and from thence to Birmingham, where the Lord Spencer wrote another letter to his Lady, October 14, and sent it by a servant to her at Althorpe; <sup>a</sup> " Acquainting her that he believed he " should not have time nor opportunity to send more than another letter to her, before he came to London, which would " be as soon as so great an army could march so many miles. " And that not only 243 [papists] but most men believed, the " King's army would make its way there, though Lord Essex's " army was five times as many as they were. And that the " King was so awed by 243, that he dares not propose peace " or accept it. But if that be offered by the parliament, he, " and others would speak their opinion, though concerning the " late treaty, they were threatned by 243. That he had above " an hour's discourse with the King, about the treaty, which " he would be glad she knew, but it was too long with cyphers, " and unfit without; else he had no commerce with his Majesty, " since they came from Nottingham: Thanks her for her care " in supplying him with money; and that he gave six score " pounds for a horse; an argument he might want the sooner, " but if he had been in danger of that, he would have ventured " his body upon a worse horse. If he durst write freely of all " things, she should have more from him, for he could truly " say of his writing in characters, as a great man of this kingdom said of his speaking; *that he never knew, what he meant " to speak, before he spake, nor what he had said after he had " spoken, &c.*

The King by quick marches, having seldom rested a day in any place<sup>b</sup>, came on Saturday the 22d October, to Edgecote, a village in Northamptonshire, within four miles of Banbury; and the next day was the battle of Kineton or Edgehill, from the King's rendezvous on it, so famous in history; and the Lord Spencer, with other noblemen, as volunteers, charged in the King's guards of horse. Lord Clarendon has observed<sup>c</sup>, " At the entrance into the field, the King's guards of horse, " either provoked by some unseasonable scoffs among the soldiery, " or out of desire of glory, or both, besought the King, *That " he would give them leave to be absent that day from his person, " and to charge in the front among the horse, the which his Majesty consented to.* They also desired Prince Rupert, *to give " them that honour which belonged to them;* who accordingly as-

<sup>z</sup> Hist. of Rebell. 8<sup>o</sup>. Vol. III. p. 41.  
p. 667, 668.

<sup>b</sup> Clarendon, p. 44.

<sup>a</sup> Sidney's State Papers, ut antea,  
<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 44, 45.







“ signed them the first place ; which (as the noble author recites)  
“ may well be reckoned among the oversights of that day ;  
“ though they performed their parts with admirable courage<sup>d</sup>.  
“ For Prince Rupert having routed the enemy’s horse, pursued  
“ them so far, that whilst most thought the victory unquestion-  
“ able, the King was in danger of the same fate, which  
“ Henry the III<sup>d</sup> had at the battle of Lewes against his Barons ;  
“ when his son the Prince having routed the horse, followed  
“ the chase so far, that before his return to the field, his father  
“ was taken prisoner.”

Whitlock in his account of that battle, given by the parliament generals, recites<sup>e</sup>, “ The greatest body of the King’s  
“ horse was in his right wing, commanded by Prince Rupert,  
“ who furiously charged the left wing of the parliaments horse,  
“ whom he routed, and pursued to Kinton with great slaughter.  
“ Both armies, horse and foot, performed their parts with great  
“ valour and bravery, till night parted the fight.” On both sides  
were lost between 5000 and 6000 men ; but Lord Clarendon  
relates, “ That on Wednesday morning, when the King drew  
“ his army to a rendezvous, he found his numbers greater than  
“ he expected ; for very many of the common soldiers, who  
“ out of cold and hunger had been missing, then joined him,  
“ so that there were not lost above three hundred men.”

The Lord Spencer marched with his Majesty to Oxford, and though he had not, or would accept of any command in the army ; yet attending on the King’s person, without any other obligation than honour, he always engaged with the most forward, in every action, or siege, where his Majesty was present. His Lordship was also intimate with Prince Rupert, and was with him at the taking of Bristol ; having a little before, for his approved loyalty, and other his great merits, been<sup>f</sup> advanced to the degree and dignity of an Earl, by the title of Earl of Sunderland, by letters patent, bearing date at Oxford, on the 8th of June, 1643 ; at which time of his creation<sup>g</sup>, he was said to be allied to all the nobility then at court, except Duke Hamilton.

By a letter to his Lady, dated at Oxford the 9th of August, at sunset, 1643, his Lordship informs her, “ That the King’s  
“ sudden resolution of going before Gloucester, had extremely  
“ disappointed him, for when he went from Bristol on Monday  
“ morning, he resolved to be at Oxford the 9th of August ;  
“ upon which his Lordship, and two or three Gentlemen, agreed  
“ to meet his Majesty there, and to take Bath in their  
“ way, which they did accordingly ; whereby they mist his  
“ Majesty, being gone that morning towards Gloucester, and

<sup>d</sup> Clarendon, p. 48.<sup>e</sup> Memorials, p. 61.<sup>f</sup> Pat. 19 Car. I.<sup>g</sup> Lloyd’s Memoirs, præd.

“ would be before it the next morning where he intended to wait  
 “ on him. That the King’s going to Gloucester, was in the  
 “ opinion of most very unadvised. The Queen unsatisfied in  
 “ it; so is all the people of quality. You will receive two  
 “ other letters from me by this messenger, one of which I wrote  
 “ before my going hence, the other at Bristol, &c.”

In another letter to her Ladyship, dated from the camp before Gloucester, August 25, he thus expresses himself,

My dearest Hart,

“ Just as I was going out of the trenches, on Wednesday,  
 “ I received your letter of the 20th of this instant, which gave  
 “ me so much satisfaction, that it put all the inconveniencies  
 “ of this siege out of my thoughts. At that instant, if I had  
 “ followed my own inclinations, I had returned an answer to  
 “ yours; writing to you, and hearing from you, being the  
 “ most pleasant entertainment, I am capable of receiving in  
 “ any place; but especially here, where, but when I am in  
 “ the trenches (which place is seldom without my company)  
 “ I am more solitary than ever I was in my life; this country  
 “ being very full of private cottages, in one of which I am  
 “ quartered, where my Lord Falkland did me the honour to  
 “ sup. Mr. Chillingworth<sup>h</sup> is here with me at Sir Nicholas  
 “ Selwin’s, who has been this week at Oxford; our little en-  
 “ gineer comes not hither so much out of kindness to me, as  
 “ for his own conveniency; my quarters being three or four  
 “ miles nearer the leaguer than my Lord of Devonshire’s, with  
 “ whom he staid till he was commanded to make ready his  
 “ engines, with all possible speed. It is not to be imagined,  
 “ with what diligence and satisfaction (I mean to myself) he  
 “ executes this command; for my part I think it not unwisely  
 “ done of him to change his profession; and I think you would  
 “ have been of my mind, if you had heard him dispute last  
 “ night, with my Lord Falkland, in favour of Socinianism;  
 “ wherein he was, by his Lordship, so often confounded, that  
 “ really it appears, he has much more reason for his engines,  
 “ than for his opinion: I put off my writing till last night,  
 “ out of hopes that somewhat here would have happened  
 “ worthy of your knowledge; and you see what good com-  
 “ pany made me defer it last night, at which time, I was  
 “ newly come from our leager, whither I thought to have gone  
 “ this morning; but I have got such a kind of small bile, in  
 “ such a place, that as I cannot ride without paine, so I cannot  
 “ with modesty make a more particular description. I find that  
 “ we had only an alarm, which they gave to hinder our work-  
 “ ing, not daring to fall any more, being so well beaten the

<sup>h</sup> ▲ famous Divine.









“ last time : Our gallery will be finisht within this day or two,  
“ and then we shall soon dispatch our mine, and them with it.  
“ Many of the soldiers are confident, that we shall have the  
“ town within this four days, which I extreamly long for, not  
“ that I am weary of the siege ; for really, though we suffer  
“ many inconveniencies, yet I am not ill pleased with this va-  
“ riety, so directly opposite, as the being in the trenches with  
“ so much good company, together with the noise and tinta-  
“ marre of guns and drums, with the horrid spectacles, and  
“ hideous crys, of dead and hurt men, is to the solitariness of  
“ my quarter : Which often brings into my thoughts, how in-  
“ finitely more happy I should esteem myself, quietly to enjoy  
“ your company at Althrope, than to be troubled with the  
“ noises, and ingaged in the factions of the Court, which I  
“ shall ever endeavor to avoid, &c. When we were at Bristol,  
“ Sir William was there, but I hear he is now lately gone to  
“ Hereford, for which I envy him, and all others, that can go  
“ to their own houses ; but I hope ere long you will let me  
“ have your company, the thought of which is to me most  
“ pleasant, and passionately desired, by yours, &c.”

In another letter from Oxford, Sept. the 16th, 1743, but four days before the fight at Newberry, where he was slain, his Lordship, gives his Lady this account.

“ Since I wrote to you last from Sulbey, we had some hopes  
“ of fighting with Lord of Essex’s army, having certain intelli-  
“ gence of his being in a field convenient enough, called  
“ Ripple Field, towards which we advanced with all possible  
“ speed ; upon which he retired with his army to Tewsbury,  
“ where, by the advantage of the bridge, he was able to make  
“ good his quarter, with 500 men against 20000. So that  
“ though we were so near as to have been with him in two  
“ hours, his quarter being so strong, it was resolved on Thurs-  
“ day, as he would not fight with us, we should endeavor to  
“ force him to it, by cutting off his provisions ; for which pur-  
“ pose the best way was, for the body of our army to go back  
“ to Evesham, and for our horse to distress him. Upon which,  
“ I and others resolved to come for a few days to Oxford,  
“ where we arrived late on Thursday night, there being no  
“ probability of fighting very suddainly. As soon as I came,  
“ I went to your father’s, where I found Alibone, with whose  
“ face I was better pleased, than with any of the Lady’s here.  
“ This expression, is so much a bolder thing than charging  
“ Lord Essex ; that should this letter miscarry, and come to  
“ the knowledge of our Dames, I should, by having my eyes  
“ scratcht out, be cleared from coming away from the army  
“ for fear ; where if I had stayd its odds, if I had lost more  
“ than one. Last night very good news came to Court, that  
“ we

“ we yesterday morning fell upon a horse quarter of the ene-  
 “ my’s, and cut off a regiment. And my Lord of Newcastle  
 “ hath killed and taken prisoners two whole regiments of horse  
 “ and foot, that issued out of Hull ; which place he hath hopes  
 “ to take. By the same messenger last night, the King sent the  
 “ Queen word, he would come hither on Monday or Tuesday ;  
 “ upon one of which days, if he alter his resolutions, I shall  
 “ not faile to return to the army. I am afraid our sitting down  
 “ before Gloucester, has hindered us from making an end of  
 “ the war this year, which nothing could keep us from doing  
 “ if we had a month’s more time, which we lost there, for we  
 “ never were in a more prosperous condition : And yet the di-  
 “ visions do not at all diminish, especially betwixt 142 and 412,  
 “ by which we receive prejudice. I never saw 83 [King] use  
 “ any body with more neglect than 100 [Earl of Holland]  
 “ and we say he is not used much better by the Queen. Mrs.  
 “ Jermyn met my Lord Jermin (who notwithstanding your in-  
 “ telligence, is but a Baron) with whom I came to Woodstoke,  
 “ who told me she would write to you, which I hope she hath  
 “ done ; for since I came here I have seen no creature, but  
 “ your father and my uncle ; so that I am altogether ignorant  
 “ of the intreigues of this place. Before I go hence I hope  
 “ some body will come from you ; however before I go hence,  
 “ I shall have a letter for you. I take the best care I can  
 “ about my economical affairs. I am afraid I shall not be able  
 “ to get you a better house, every body thinking me mad for  
 “ speaking about it. Pray blefs Poppet for me<sup>i</sup>, and tell her  
 “ I would have writ to her, but that upon mature deliberation,  
 “ I found it uncivil to return an answer to a Lady, in another  
 “ character than her own, which I am not yet learned enough  
 “ to do. I cannot by walking about my chamber, call any  
 “ thing more to mind to set down here, and really I have  
 “ made you no small complement in writing thus much ; for I  
 “ have so great a cold, that I do nothing but sneese, and my  
 “ eyes do nothing but water, all the while I am in this posture  
 “ of holding down my head. I beseech you present his service  
 “ to my Lady, who is most passionately and perfectly

Yours,

Oxford, September the 16th 1643.

SUNDERLAND.

I have inserted the aforesaid letters, as they set forth some  
 particulars of those times not so well known ; and as they  
 shew his Lordship was a person of observation and address, as  
 also a very affectionate and tender husband. And his sentiments  
 were so just, that the Earl of Clarendon, Whitlock, and others,

<sup>i</sup> His daughter, after Marchioness of Halifax,







agree with his Lordship, that the undertaking of the siege of Gloucester, was the ruin of the King's army, which might have marched to London without opposition.

The march of the Earl of Essex, for the relief of Gloucester, and the means that contributed thereto, are at large related by the Earl of Clarendon, who throughout his history, is not particular in reciting the days of many remarkable actions. But <sup>k</sup> Whitlock tells us, that on Sunday and Monday, the 3d and 4th of September, the King drew off his carriages, and removed the siege. His Majesty September 5th, went over Severn towards Bristol; and Lord Essex the day following entered Gloucester. It's needless to recount the movements of both armies, till the battle of Newberry, which fell <sup>l</sup> out on the 20th of September, and lasted from about six in the morning, till ten or eleven at night. It is observed by the same author, who had his intelligence from the account sent by the Earl of Essex <sup>m</sup>, *That the parliament soldiers had the pillage of the dead bodies, and that both parties fought with great manhood and animosity, especially the King's horse, who yet were worsted, and the Earls of Sunderland, and of Carnarvon, who commanded part of them, were slain in the fight.* The Earl of Clarendon <sup>n</sup> gives this account. *The King's horse, with a kind of contempt of the enemy, charged with wonderful boldness, upon all grounds of inequality, and were so far too hard for the troops of the other side, that they routed them in most places, till they had left the greatest part of their foot without any guard at all of horse. But then the foot behaved themselves admirably on the enemies part, and gave their scattered horse time to rally, and were ready to assist and secure them on all occasions.* " Here fell (says the <sup>o</sup> noble " author) the Earl of Sunderland, a Lord of great fortune, " tender years (being not above three and twenty years of " age) and an early judgement; who having no command in " the army, attended upon the King's person, under the " obligation of honour; and putting himself that day in the " King's troop a volunteer, before they came to charge, was taken away by a cannon bullet: which however, as Lloyd relates <sup>p</sup>, did not wholly take his life away; *But through the chinks of a wounded body, expressed those holy thoughts, that went as harbingers of his soul to Heaven.*

On 28 September 1643 <sup>q</sup>, a black box, and a desk of the Earl of Sunderland's, were opened at the Earl of Leicester's lodgings, in Queen's College in Oxford, in the presence of the Earl of Leicester, Mr. John Harvey, Mr. William Ailsbury, Dr. Henry Hammond, Mr. Crook, and Mr. Smyth, and two

<sup>k</sup> Memorials, p. 69.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid. p. 70.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid.

<sup>n</sup> Hist. of Rebell.

<sup>o</sup> Vol. III. p. 347.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid. p. 349.

<sup>q</sup> Memoirs of Loyalists, p. 432.

<sup>r</sup> Ex Autog. apud Penshurst.



of Lord Sunderland's chief servants, Wingfield Catlin, and Hugh Pennant. At which time Hugh Pennant had delivered to him four pounds, to redeem the Earl's watch, taken from him after his death in battle.

Robert Earl of Leicester, his Lordship's Father-in-law, bemoans his death, in a very remarkable letter, he wrote to his daughter, dated at Oxford 10th of October 1643, which I published among the *Sidney memorials* Vol. II. p. 271, 272. He therein tells her Ladyship, " I know it is to no purpose  
 " to advise you not to grieve, that is not my intention; for  
 " such a loss as yours, cannot be received indifferently, by a  
 " nature so tender, and so sensible as yours; but though your  
 " affection to him whom you loved so dearly, and your reason  
 " in valuing his merit (neither of which you could do too  
 " much) did expose you to the danger of that sorrow which now  
 " oppresseth you; yet if you consult with that affection, and  
 " with reason, you will see cause to moderate that sorrow; for  
 " your affection to that worthy person may tell you, that even  
 " to it you cannot justify your self, if you lament his being  
 " raised to a degree of happiness, far beyond any that he could  
 " enjoy upon the earth, &c. and your reason will assure you,  
 " that besides the vanity of bemoaning that which hath no  
 " remedy, you offend him whom you loved, if you hurt  
 " that person whom he loved; remember how apprehensive he  
 " was of your dangers, and how sorry for any thing that  
 " troubled you &c. I know you lived happily, and so as no  
 " body but your self, could measure the contentment of it.  
 " I rejoiced at it, and did thank God for making me, one of  
 " the means to procure it for you, &c."

Lloyd gives this further account<sup>r</sup>, that; " He was virtuous  
 " because it became him; was above vice, as well as without  
 " it; a good patriot, promoting trade, manufactures, and the  
 " privileges of his country; a good neighbour, beloved of all;  
 " a discreet landlord, a noble housekeeper; a friend to the  
 " learned; and an exemplary master of a family." From the  
 amiable, and deserved character so justly attributed to his Lordship, it may be reckoned, considering the few years he lived, that his death was a great loss to his country.

He left his Lady great with child, who was delivered of a daughter, named Penelope<sup>s</sup>, but it died soon after its birth. I have before mentioned that he had a son Robert, and a daughter Dorothy, on whom he settled 10000 l. on her marriage. She was in 1656, married to Sir George Savile Baronet, who was by King Charles the 2d created Marquis of Halifax, and made a considerable figure in that reign. He<sup>t</sup> with the Lady Dorothy his wife, gave a general release, dated the 2d of

<sup>r</sup> Memoirs, ut antea.

<sup>s</sup> Ex Scrip. apud Penshurst.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid.





January 1656, to Robert Earl of Leicester, Dorothy Countess Dowager of Sunderland, and other trustees, for the said 10000*l*. Which Dorothy Countess of Sunderland lived to a very great age, and was buried by her Lord at Brinton 25th February, 1683-4. She was but twenty three years of age<sup>u</sup>, when she had the hard fortune, to lose her beloved Lord, and entertained no thoughts of marriage for a considerable time, living retired, a rare example of all christian virtues; her house (as Lloyd \* observes) being a sanctuary to the loyal sufferers, and learned clergymen; till finding the heavy load of house-keeping too troublesome; she thereupon went to her father at Penshurst, and with his consent took to her a second husband<sup>v</sup>, on the 8th of July, 1652, Robert Smyth of Sutton at Hone, and Bounds, in Kent, Esquire, son and heir of Sir John Smyth Knight (by Isabella his wife, daughter of Robert Rich first Earl of Warwick) son and heir of Sir Thomas Smyth, uncle of Thomas Smyth, created Lord Viscount Strangford, who had to wife, Barbara daughter of Robert Sidney the first Earl of Leicester. The Countess of Sunderland also survived her second husband, by whom she had issue, Robert Smyth Esquire, Governor of Dover Castle in the reign of King Charles II*d*, whose son Henry was father of Sydney Stafford Smyth, one of the Barons of his Majesty's court of Exchequer, now living.

Robert Earl of Sunderland, only son and heir of the last Lord, was from his youth of a manly disposition, Dr. Peirce, who was his tutor, gave him this character<sup>z</sup>: “ His choice  
“ endowments of nature, having been happily seasoned and  
“ crowned with grace, gave him at once such a willingness and  
“ aptness to be taught, that reconciled his greatest pains with  
“ ease and pleasure; and made the education of his dear Lord,  
“ not so much his employment, as his recreation and reward.”

On his return into England, after his travels, his bright parts and abilities made him soon distinguished, and rendered him universally beloved and esteemed. And his Majesty, King Charles, observing his noble and polite behaviour, appointed him his Ambassador extraordinary to the court of Spain, in 1671. The Earl of Arlington Secretary of state, writes to Sir William Godolphin, envoy in Spain, from Euston Hall October 9, 1671<sup>a</sup>. “ We have here my Lord Sunderland,  
“ whose preparations are making at London, with all possible  
“ speed, for his Embassy into Spain, whither he goes under  
“ the character of his Majesty's extraordinary Ambassador. I  
“ will not anticipate any thing on the occasion of his going, more

<sup>u</sup> Ex Scrip. apud Penshurst.  
de Penshurst.

Vol II. p. 335.

<sup>v</sup> Memoirs, p. 433.

<sup>z</sup> Lloyd's Memoirs, ut antea.

<sup>a</sup> Ex Regist. Eccles.

<sup>b</sup> Arlington's Letters,



“ than that he will carry overtures, which we think will be  
 “ grateful to that court; and also his Majesty’s new declara-  
 “ tion of his firm resolution to maintain the peace of Aix la  
 “ Chapelle, according to his engagement in the triple alliance,  
 “ whatever calumnies our neighbours are pleased to throw up-  
 “ on us, as if his Majesty had an intention to depart from it.  
 “ Besides which, it is an uncomfortable observation we make  
 “ to our selves, that whilst by our temporising with France,  
 “ we have kept the peace these three years past, we are only  
 “ accused of intentions and designs to break it.”

His Lordship <sup>b</sup> set out for Dover November 22d, to pass  
 from thence to Calais, and to proceed over land for Madrid;  
 and by letter from thence, dated January 24 (O. S.) 1671-2,  
 informs the Earl of Arlington, “ That he arrived there, the  
 “ 9th of January N. S. and with Sir William Godolphin,  
 “ had their first audiences of their Catholick Majesties the 16th;  
 “ and on the 22d, had their first conference with the Conde  
 “ de Peneranda, which, he coming to visit them, began with  
 “ many complements on his own behalf towards the King  
 “ our master &c. We replied all fitting expressions of our re-  
 “ spects to their Catholick Majesties, and the sincere desire we  
 “ brought, to do that might yet more firmly unite the two  
 “ crowns together; and also our joy that the Queen had named  
 “ a minister of so much authority and credit in this govern-  
 “ ment, and of whom the King our master had so great a  
 “ value to confer with us; which we considered as a good omen  
 “ for the happy success of our affairs. He then made a long  
 “ discourse of the advantages which England and Spain had in  
 “ all times received, &c. hence we passed to our business,  
 “ which we began with the great offence our master had ta-  
 “ ken at the Conde de Monterey’s obscure and reserved manage-  
 “ ment of the late treaty at the Hague, and all the fitting ag-  
 “ gravations that might justify his Majesty’s resentment of that  
 “ negotiation, in a conjuncture, when we had disputes of so  
 “ great moment with the States General, who without doubt,  
 “ would be confirmed, and heightened thereupon, in that pride  
 “ and insolence, which had already transported them to the  
 “ doing us unsufferable injuries. He said they never heard of  
 “ any quarrel the King our master had with the Hollanders,  
 “ till some weeks ago, &c. And on the 24th having another  
 “ conference, we exposed to him the King our master’s deep  
 “ resentment of the ill behaviour of the Dutch to him, as  
 “ well by personal indignities, as many contraventions of the  
 “ late treaty, which his Majesty had hitherto dissembled not  
 “ to discompose the triple alliance, his resolution at length to

<sup>b</sup> Bishop Kennet’s Life of King Charles II. in Hist. of England, Vol. III.  
 p. 309.      <sup>c</sup> Letters and Negotiations in Spain, Vol. II. p. 134, 135.







“ right himself, God willing, by force of arms, in conjunction  
“ with the most Christian King, dissatisfied also with the insolence of their proceedings, who had been induced to assist  
“ our master in this quarrel, &c. We then proposed, that  
“ this crown would either join with the two Kings, or declare  
“ a neutrality, with such conveniences to Spain in either  
“ case, as our private instructions directed us to offer. He  
“ answered little, besides his surprize at such a determination,  
“ &c. and prayed we would give him what we had said in  
“ writing, that he might represent the same to the Queen and  
“ council, which we did on the 26th, signing it in the English,  
“ but with a translation in Spanish, &c. We think that the  
“ matter hath begotten so various opinions among these ministers,  
“ that they will not come to any resolution thereon, so speedily as we wish for his Majesty’s satisfaction.”

I shall only insert part of another letter of his Lordship’s, to the Earl of Arlington, whereby the reader may judge, of the difficulty of his negotiation, in bringing Spain to join in a declaration of war against the Dutch, or keep a neutrality<sup>b</sup>.

Madrid February 3. O. S. 1671-2.

My Lord,

“ After having given your Lordship an account of what I  
“ have done, I would, if I could, tell you what I am like to  
“ do; which indeed is so hard to do, that I believe none of  
“ the junta know their own minds, on which our negotiation  
“ depends; they all desire extreamly to assist the Dutch, and  
“ would do it without any kind of hesitation, but for fear  
“ of the King, though the French were yet more powerful  
“ than they are. I hope Mr. Godolphin<sup>c</sup> will be able  
“ to carry more certain news, which he grows very impatient to do; so much he envies this courier, as thinking  
“ him the happiest man in the world. I send him now for  
“ what concerns the Duke [of York] having another here  
“ ready, if there should be occasion. His marriage with the  
“ Arch-Dutchess is talked of as publickly, as such things used  
“ to be in other places, when a dozen people know them.  
“ Mr. Godolphin is very little satisfied with Madrid, though  
“ he has seen the finest thing which has been here a great  
“ while; a comedy with scenes and machines, which the  
“ Prince de Stigliano gave to the King and Queen in the  
“ Retiro; whither all the ambassadors were invited; and to  
“ accommodate the difficulty of precedency, on the pretence of  
“ not meeting with the Nuncio, he and all the rest were  
“ put in a box, on the right hand of the King’s; and we were

<sup>b</sup> Letters, &c. præd p. 140, 141.  
Earl of Godolphin.

<sup>c</sup> He was the same person created

“ alone in one of the other side ; so that the German Ambaf-  
 “ fador being one of those, though the Nuncio and French  
 “ were there, we had reason to be satisfied. This I write to  
 “ let your Lordship see, how ingenious these people are in  
 “ such things, which is not strange ; for I believe they think  
 “ more of them than all the rest of the world. I did not know  
 “ whether I should visit the Cardinal de Arragon, who is of  
 “ the juncta, because he gives the hand to no body in his own  
 “ house, and finding the not meeting him to be very con-  
 “ venient ; to avoid all disputes, I have not yet seen the  
 “ Cardinal ; but if your Lordship thinks it proper, it is yet  
 “ time enough, and I can turn it into a complement from the  
 “ King : Reading all this stuff about precedency, your Lord-  
 “ ship will be of Mr. Godolphin’s mind, who says, *They talk*  
 “ *here of other business, but they have none ; but how to get the*  
 “ *hand of one another.*

“ I am still in Sir William Godolphin’s house, it being im-  
 “ possible for me yet to be any where else, which I think is  
 “ not very easy to him, though I do all I can to make it so.  
 “ Mr. Godolphin helps very much, so that though he leaves  
 “ us, before my equipage comes, I mean to go to the house  
 “ I have taken, which was the Baron de Batteville’s, one of  
 “ the best in Madrid, with a very fine garden full of orange  
 “ trees and fountains, which I shall after wish at Euston with  
 “ my self. I hope long before this comes to your Lordship’s  
 “ hands, you will be perfectly free of all remainders of the  
 “ gout, which is earnestly wished by, my Lord,

“ yours, &c.”

It appears from his Lordship’s, and Sir William Godolphin’s  
 letters, that he left his Countess, and the main part of his  
 family in England, till he saw whether his negotiations would  
 succeed. And by letter from Madrid, February 28, O. S. 1671-2,  
 to the Earl of Arlington, concludes <sup>d</sup>, “ *That in the humour*  
 “ *they are here of supporting the Dutch, I believe nothing we can*  
 “ *offer, will be at all valued by them ;* and if the King should  
 “ think of making no new propositions, it would be a very  
 “ unseasonable time for my wife to begin a journey in. Ther-  
 “ fore I beg the favour, you will please to direct her.”  
 His Lordship left Madrid <sup>e</sup> on May 30, O. S. 1672. And  
 June 22. following Sir William Godolphin complains <sup>f</sup> “ Of  
 “ the misery he was reduced to for want of supplies, wherein  
 “ not only his own reputation loseth ground, but his Majes-  
 “ ty’s honour and service suffereth exceedingly ; especially  
 “ since my Lord Sunderland went hence, without making  
 “ any publick entry, which the common sort of people at-

<sup>d</sup> Letters, &c. ut antea, p. 166.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid. p. 182.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid. p. 170.







“tribute to the want and distractions of our government at home as they think. But the ministers complain of it, as an affront done to their King and Queen, having avowed to me, that if my Lord Sunderland and I had not promised to make a publick entry, they would never have admitted us in quality of Ambassadors to a private audience, against the stile of this court, and as hath never been practised here. And as a mark of their resentment, they have since made an order of state, *That no future Ambassador shall have private audience of their Majesties, without first entring publickly*; and have already put the same in execution by denying a private audience to the new Ambassador of Denmark, who after our example asked the same, but could not be admitted till he had made his publick entry.”

The Earl of Sunderland, after leaving Madrid resided some time at Paris, as Ambassador extraordinary to the French King. And Sir William Godolphin, in his letter December 7, 1672, complaining of exhausting his private fortune, says <sup>f</sup>, “I cannot but believe that my case is singular, and that my Lord Sunderland is better supplied at Paris; if not he needeth it less. That the Ambassadors, in the courts of Vienna, Paris, and Madrid, had 100 l. per week; from which rule they had been pleased to depart in my case only, as if my estate were so much greater, than either Mr. Montague’s, or my Lord Sunderland’s.” And complaining further of his want of equipage, and not making his publick entry, he recites <sup>g</sup>, “My Lord Sunderland is gone, and free from the ways which this court taketh of revenge, though he suffered sufficiently when he was here, most of the Grandees refusing to pay the visits he gave them, pretending they could not visit him as Ambassador, till he had made his publick entry.”

In 1673, the Swedes offering their mediation for a general peace <sup>h</sup>, his Majesty appointed the Earl of Sunderland, Sir Lionel Jenkins, and Sir Joseph Williamson, his plenipotentiaries for the treaty; which was of short continuance, for the Emperor seizing the Elector of Cologne’s plenipotentiary, the French looked on it, as such a violation of the passports, that they set it up for a preliminary, before they would enter on the treaty.

His Lordship continued abroad till the beginning of the year 1674, being followed by Sir Lionel Jenkins, and Sir Joseph Williamson, the other plenipotentiaries at Cologne <sup>i</sup>, who arrived from thence at Whitehall, May 10, 1674. And this ac-

<sup>f</sup> Letters, &c. ut antea, p. 173.  
History of his own Times, 8°. Vol. I. p. 495.  
Vol. I. p. 246.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid. p. 174.

<sup>h</sup> Bishop Burnet’s  
<sup>i</sup> Poiuter’s Chron. Hist.

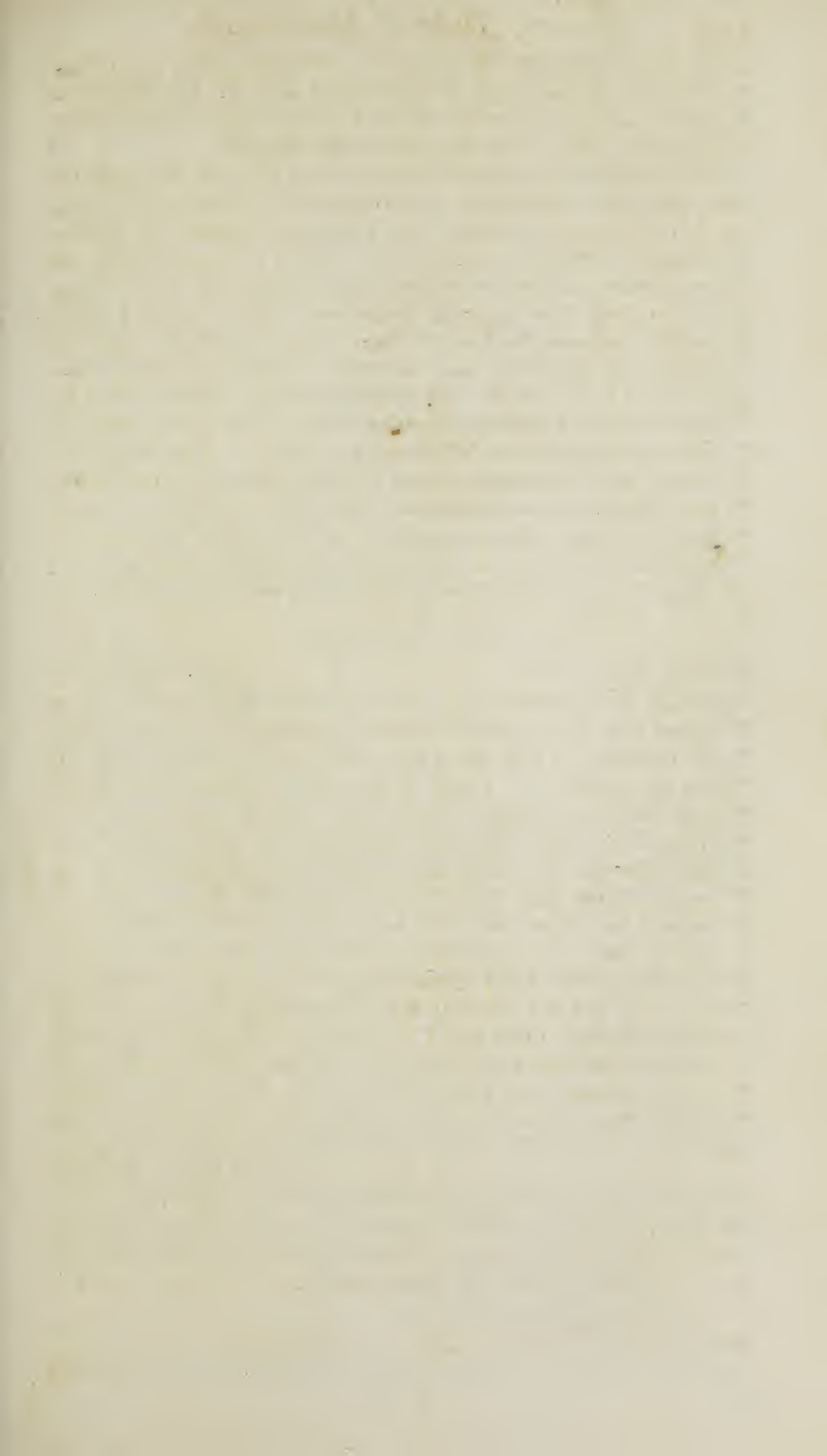
count was published in the Gazette <sup>k</sup>. Windsor, May 27, 1674,  
 “ This day Robert Earl of Sunderland was by his Majesty’s  
 “ favour admitted into the Privy Council; and having taken  
 “ the usual oaths, took his place at the Board.”

His Lordship continued in England, till July 1678, when he was again sent Ambassador extraordinary to the French King, on Mr. Montague’s coming into England, without his Majesty’s leave<sup>l</sup>; which occasioned his cabinet to be searched, on some private intelligence concerning him, given to the King by Olivecrans the Swedish Secretary. There being a close friendship between the Earl of Danby Lord Treasurer, and his Lordship, his first letter was addressed to him from Paris, August 2, (O. S.) 1678. He therein informs him<sup>m</sup>, “ The  
 “ courier your Lordship dispatched from London the 28th of  
 “ July, arrived here on Wednesday morning. The same day  
 “ I went to St. Germain, where I represented to his most Christian Majesty, how impossible it was for the King my master, to accept of any expedient for the peace, without the  
 “ absolute restitution of the towns so long in question; &c.  
 “ That he had ordered me to obtain a speedy and positive answer, which I did desire his Majesty would please to give  
 “ in a day or two. To this his Majesty answered, that he certainly believed, the propositions he had made at Nimeguen  
 “ would be accepted, and that the peace was, perhaps, now signed; or if any small difficulty remained, it might easily  
 “ be removed by the King my master, which he doubted not  
 “ but he would do. I said, I was very confident that Spain  
 “ and Holland, neither could nor would, consent to any  
 “ thing less, than the total restitution of the towns; and  
 “ that though the King my master’s inclinations were for  
 “ peace, rather than war, he must chuse the latter, if the expedient he offered was not accepted, and that I had but a  
 “ day or two to expect his resolutions. To which I was  
 “ answered, that every moment news was expected from Nimeguen, and till then it was unnecessary to think of any  
 “ thing else, &c. I told him I believed no accommodation could  
 “ prevail with Spain and Holland, but the absolute restitution  
 “ of the towns; nor that neither after a certain time, which  
 “ either was or would be soon expired, &c.” In answer to the said letter, the Earl of Danby informed him by express three days after<sup>n</sup>, “ That he had just received his letter, and that  
 “ his Majesty had commanded him to send back the courier  
 “ (having received the news that the peace was signed between  
 “ France and the States, but knew not the particulars) that he  
 “ might lose no time in going to his most Christian Majesty,

<sup>k</sup> Hist. of England, Vol. III. p. 329.  
 Danby, p. 106.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid. p. 289.

<sup>l</sup> Letters to and from the Earl of  
<sup>n</sup> Ibid. p. 293.







“ and letting him know, that the King hopes, he had suffered  
“ all things to return to the same state they were, when his  
“ Majesty entred with him into the treaty of the 17th of May.”  
And if he should meet with any difficulty in confirming of that  
treaty, he was to press it as a matter wherein the King had not  
justice done, in case it should be refused, &c.

There are other letters to the Earl of Sunderland from the  
Earl of Danby, which shew the artifices of the French, in pre-  
vailing on the States General to sign a separate peace, and the  
King's resentment of it. And his Lordship was<sup>o</sup> ordered to  
convince the ministers of that court (if he could) “ That they  
“ must make good the assurances given for the evacuating of  
“ the towns, if they desire the continuance of his Majesty's  
“ friendship; who had resolved to let his troops be with the  
“ Prince of Orange, untill there be either a cessation of arms,  
“ or an assurance, that the towns should be evacuated.”

His Lordship in answer, from Paris 22 August, 1678, plain-  
ly shews his opinion of the French, and their shuffling deal-  
ing with us, and his assiduity in his negotiations, as follows<sup>p</sup>.

To the Lord Treasurer.

My Lord,

Paris August  $\frac{1}{2}$  1678.

“ Your Lordship had always so ill an opinion of my nego-  
“ tiation in this court, that you will not wonder to find, that  
“ they change just as they think we may be useful to them,  
“ that being the measure they go by. The peace being now  
“ agreed betwixt this Court and the States, I suppose there  
“ will be no occasion for my continuing much longer here:  
“ but in the mean time, must beg leave to tell your Lordship,  
“ that since I came hither, I am sure I have passed three  
“ quarters of my time at St. Germain's, or on the way to it,  
“ and that I was never there one minute, but upon the King's  
“ business; and that I do not think I have omitted any thing,  
“ that could have been done by one in my place. But it is  
“ certain that the difficulties were made at Nimeguen, on  
“ purpose either to obtain by our master's help, that some of  
“ the towns might have remained in the power of France, or  
“ else to occasion the lapse of the time, and so save so much  
“ money; for the peace has without question been resolved  
“ here a great while.

“ The court is this day gone to Fontainebleau: I intend to fol-  
“ low in a few days, to be more ready to obey any orders the  
“ King shall please to send me. I am entirely, &c.”

Your Lordship's most faithful  
and most humble servant,

SUNDERLAND.

<sup>o</sup> Letters to and from the Earl of Danby, p. 297.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid, p. 298, 299.

The Earl of Danby in answer says <sup>2</sup>, “ As you tell me in  
 “ that of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  that I had always so bad an opinion of that  
 “ court, that I will believe no good can come from it; so  
 “ I doubt not but your Lordship must be of the same opinion  
 “ by the tricks and evasions you meet with from them every day.  
 “ I shewed your letters to his Majesty, as also one I received  
 “ from you by Lord Dunbarton. But the truth is his Majes-  
 “ ty doth now expect so little reality from France, that he  
 “ does not much busy his thoughts, how to transact with  
 “ them; being satisfied that if they can propose any thing  
 “ to us which may be for their interest, they will not fail to  
 “ do it themselves: And whatever his Majesty shall propose,  
 “ they will only make use of it (as they have done) either to  
 “ procure delays by it, or to talk of, to the creating jealousies  
 “ betwixt us, and their enemies. For these reasons his Majesty  
 “ commands me to let your Lordship know, that he will pro-  
 “ pose nothing, but that he would have you give the same good  
 “ words to the French King, as he did you, &c.”

The last letter I find of his Lordship's, during his abode in  
 France, is to the Lord Treasurer, dated October 8, O. S. 1678,  
<sup>2</sup> wherein, he acquaints him; “ That he had with all the  
 “ care imaginable let the French King know, that it is im-  
 “ possible for his Majesty to make the declaration, which is  
 “ so much desired here; and how much he is courted to enter  
 “ into the contrary alliance, and have made the propositions,  
 “ your Lordship's letters directed me to do. To which I can ob-  
 “ tain no answer, but that the chief thing towards procuring the  
 “ satisfaction of Sweden, is the King's declaring himself for  
 “ it, &c. I said all that was possible to let him understand, that  
 “ very advantageous propositions were made to the King: That  
 “ the power of the Prince of Orange, was as considerable as ever:  
 “ That the business of Sweden could never be accommodated, if  
 “ the King should join with the confederates; and several  
 “ things to fortify all that, which I am confident he sees very  
 “ plainly, and desires extremely to secure the friendship of our  
 “ master, &c. After this I told him, that I had asked leave to  
 “ go into England for a short time, which I hoped to obtain.  
 “ He said he should not be sorry, that I made such a journey,  
 “ because he hoped it would contribute, to the establishing a  
 “ correspondence, that might be of advantage to my master,  
 “ and to him. This being the state of affairs here, I beg of  
 “ your Lordship to ask leave of the King that I may go in-  
 “ to England for a month, or less, as he shall think fit. I  
 “ am sure it cannot prejudice his business, and I hope it may  
 “ be some advantage to it; for one cannot write a great many  
 “ little things, which are often important to the greatest, &c.”

<sup>2</sup> Earl of Danby's Letters, p. 300, 301.

a Ibid. p. 203, 204.







Whilst his Lordship remained at the court of France, it was the critical time of the treaties at Nimeguen, which ended in a separate peace betwixt France and Holland; and at last with Spain also. Whereby his negotiations required great assiduity; and he acquitted himself to the satisfaction of his own Sovereign as well as to the King of France. Infomuch as Sir William Temple recites<sup>b</sup>, he was sent for over from the Hague to come into the place of Secretary of state in Mr. Coventry's room, and to enter on it about the same time with my Lord Sunderland, who was brought into Sir Joseph Williamson's place. On November 18, 1678, Sir Joseph was committed to the Tower by the House of Commons, for signing<sup>c</sup> commissions to popish officers, and warrants for dispensations to them to continue in their commands, and to be passed in muster without taking the oaths of allegiance, &c. according to a late act. But the King the next day sent for the Commons, and told them, *Though they committed his servant, without acquainting him; yet he intends to deal more freely with them, and intended to release his Secretary.* Upon which the Commons immediately drew up an address to his Majesty, setting forth his crime, and that being a member of their house they had committed him, and desired his Majesty not to discharge him. But the King in his answer said, *He had released Mr. Secretary Williamson, before their address came.* However not long after, on the displeasure of the House of Commons against him<sup>d</sup>, his Majesty on the 9th of February, 1678, was pleased to constitute the Earl of Sunderland one of his principal Secretaries of State, in his room.

As Lord Sunderland came then to be at the head of the administration, I shall briefly recite Sir William Temple's observations on that critical time<sup>e</sup>. “ On his arrival in England the latter  
“ end of February, he found the King had dissolved the parliament that had set 18 years, and a new one called; and  
“ that to make way for a calm session, the Duke of York embarked the day after his arrival at London, for Holland;  
“ Lord Shaftsbury, Lord Essex, and Lord Halifax, had struck  
“ up with the Duke of Monmouth, resolving to make use of  
“ his credit with the King, and support it by theirs in the parliament. He found the Lord Treasurer [Earl of Danby]  
“ and Lord Chamberlain [Earl of Arlington] two most admirable emblems of the true, and so much admired felicity  
“ of ministers of state. The last grown out of all confidence  
“ and credit with the King; and thereby forced to support  
“ himself by intrigues with the most discontented against Lord  
“ Treasurer's ministry, whose greatness he so much envied; and  
“ who was in much worse condition himself, though not

<sup>b</sup> Memoirs, Part II. p. 385, 387.

<sup>c</sup> Hist. of England, Vol. III. p. 354.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. p. 356.

<sup>e</sup> Memoirs, Part II. p. 388, & seq.

“ so sensible of it; for he had been very ill with the late  
 “ parliament, on account of transactions with France, which  
 “ though he had not approved, yet he durst not defend himself  
 “ from the imputation, for fear of exposing his master. He was  
 “ in danger of being pursued by his enemies in parliament for  
 “ having made the peace, and endeavoured to stifle the popish  
 “ plot, and yet sat very loose with the King, who told Sir  
 “ William several reasons of that change, whereof one was,  
 “ his bringing the business of the plot into parliament, against  
 “ his absolute command. And to compleat the envied state  
 “ of this chief minister, the Dutchess of Portsmouth, and Earl  
 “ of Sunderland, were joined with the Duke of Monmouth,  
 “ and Earl of Shaftsbury, in the design of his ruin.

The 22d of February, the King acquainted the parliament <sup>f</sup>, with the removal of the Earl of Danby from the office of Lord Treasurer. He was put out to make way for the Earl of Essex, who was brought into the Treasury, by the Duke of Monmouth, and the Earl Sunderland <sup>g</sup>, as recited by Sir William Temple; and that Lord Sunderland, in compliance was resolved to bring Lord Shaftsbury again into court, being his near relation [his wife then living, was his father's sister] and was in confidence with the Duke of Monmouth, and Lord Essex. Sir William Temple did not join with them, though he kept a good understanding with the Earl of Sunderland; and refused to be Secretary of state (so that Sir Lionel Jenkins succeeded Mr. Coventry) though often, and earnestly urged to it by Lord Sunderland <sup>h</sup>, as himself relates. And that he projected the King's establishing a new council, of such a constitution as might gain credit with the parliament, and thereby give ease and quiet both to the King and his people. “ And his Majesty coming to a resolution, first to communicate it to three or four, he could most rely on, in  
 “ point of judgment, secrecy and affection to his service,  
 “ ordered Sir William Temple to communicate the whole  
 “ scheme to the Lord Chancellor Finch, Lord Sunderland,  
 “ and Lord Essex; but one after another; and with charge  
 “ from him of the last secrecy; and bring him word of their  
 “ opinions on it, and if they concurred with his, to appoint  
 “ them to attend his Majesty the next morning: When they  
 “ were acquainted with it they all received it with equal  
 “ amazement and pleasure. And Lord Sunderland approved  
 “ it as much as any. The day after they attended his  
 “ Majesty, and had a very long audience, upon which no  
 “ difficulty arose but two that were wholly personal. Sir  
 “ William had proposed Lord Halifax to be one of the  
 “ council, and thought his Majesty had been contented with

<sup>f</sup> Pointer's Chron. Hist. Vol. I. p. 259.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid. p. 17, 18, 19, 20 to 28.

<sup>h</sup> Memoirs, Part III. p. 12.

“ it;







“ it; but at this meeting he raised new difficulties, and ap-  
 “ peared a great while invincible in them, though all joined in  
 “ defence of him: and at last told the King they would fall  
 “ on their knees to gain a point, they all thought so neces-  
 “ sary for his service. And then his Majesty consented. The  
 “ other was concerning Lord Shaftsbury, whom the King  
 “ had not thought on before; but after Lord Halifax had  
 “ passed, the King said there was another; who if he was  
 “ left out, might do as much mischief as any, and named  
 “ Lord Shaftsbury; to which the three Lords agreed; and con-  
 “ cluded farther, that he would never be content with a coun-  
 “ cellor’s place among thirty, and therefore proposed to add  
 “ one to the number, and make him Lord President. Sir  
 “ William desired his Majesty to remember, that he had no  
 “ part in Lord Shaftsbury’s coming into his council or his  
 “ affairs, and that his Majesty and the Lords had resolved it  
 “ without him, and was still absolutely against it. The King  
 “ laughed, and turned his anger into a jest, and went on  
 “ with the constitution intended.” And at Whitehall the 21st  
 of April 1679 <sup>i</sup>, they met his Majesty in council; who the  
 same day told his two houses, that he had established a new  
 privy council; *And had made choice of such persons, as were*  
*worthy and able to advise him; and was resolved in all his weighty*  
*and important affairs to be advised by them* <sup>k</sup>. “ And it was re-  
 “ ceived with general applause in the country, with bonfires in  
 “ the city, and the same in Ireland: in Holland the actions of  
 “ the East-India Company rose upon it very much, &c.”

Lord Sunderland (as said before) was desirous of having Sir  
 William Temple Secretary of State in Mr. Coventry’s place;  
 but the ill opinion Sir William had of the Earl of Shaftsbury’s  
 being employed, made him decline it: <sup>1</sup> Yet on his Lordship’s  
 desiring by Mr. Sydney, that they three might join together in  
 perfect confidence, and distinct from any others, in the course  
 of the King’s affairs, he was willing to embrace it. “ This con-  
 “ fidence (says he) had not run on above a fortnight, when Lord  
 “ Sunderland asked me if I were willing Lord Essex should be  
 “ received in it, which I consented to, though with intimation  
 “ to Lord Sunderland of the opinion I had (for some time of  
 “ late) of Lord Essex. So we met for a while once a day by  
 “ turns, at each of our houses, and consulted upon the chief  
 “ affairs that were then on the anvil, and how they might be  
 “ best prepared for the parliament or the council. But matters  
 “ growing very untoward, by the practices of Lord Shaftsbury  
 “ and Duke of Monmouth, and the ill humour of the House  
 “ of Commons about the business of religion: I proposed to

<sup>i</sup> Appendix to Temple’s Memoirs, Part III. p. 1,  
 p. 22, 23.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid. p. 28, 29, 30, 31, & seq.

<sup>k</sup> Memoirs, præd.

“ Lords Sunderland and Effex, to receive Lord Halifax into  
 “ all our consultations, who was unsatisfied by observing where  
 “ the King’s confidence was; and by being admitted, would  
 “ both enter him into credit with the King, and give us more  
 “ ease in the course of his affairs. Lord Effex received the  
 “ overture with his usual dryness: Lord Sunderland opposed it  
 “ a good deal, and said I should not find Lord Halifax the  
 “ person I took him for; but one that could draw with no body,  
 “ and still climbing up to the top himself. However I conti-  
 “ nued resolute in pressing it, and at length it was concluded;  
 “ and we fell all four together into the usual meetings and  
 “ consultations.

“ The chief matters before the King at that time, were  
 “ first the satisfaction of his people, by falling into measures  
 “ with the parliament, that might enable him to look abroad  
 “ in such a figure, as became the Crown of England; and was  
 “ necessary for preventing a new invasion of France, upon  
 “ Flanders or Holland, which looked very desperate. The  
 “ second was on instances made from the States, about a new  
 “ guaranty to be given upon the late general peace by his Ma-  
 “ jesty; particularly to Spain in the business of Flanders: The  
 “ third was giving some ease to Scotland, where the humours  
 “ began to swell, and we conceived could be no way done so  
 “ easily as by removal of the Duke of Lauderdale, too much  
 “ hated both here and there, to be fit for the temper, his Ma-  
 “ jesty seemed resolved to use in his affairs. For this last, we  
 “ could not on any terms obtain it of the King, by all the ar-  
 “ guments used (jointly and severally) by us all four; the King  
 “ saying none of us knew Scotland so well as himself.

“ For the second, we easily agreed on the measures that  
 “ seemed necessary, for the satisfaction of the States, and the  
 “ safety of Flanders; being all four of the committee, where  
 “ all foreign affairs were consulted, &c. For the first, which  
 “ was the most important, we found it more perplexed than  
 “ we could imagine. Both Houses of Parliament seemed to  
 “ have no eyes, but for the dangers of popery, on the Duke  
 “ of York’s succession to the Crown; which humour was blown  
 “ up by all the arts and intrigues of the Duke of Monmouth  
 “ and Lord Shaftsbury. The King seemed willing to secure  
 “ them against those fears, without changing the laws in point  
 “ of succession. The council thereupon, with great earnest-  
 “ ness and endeavour, agreed on heads to be offered the parlia-  
 “ ment commonly enough known; which were agreed to by  
 “ all the council, except Lord Shaftsbury, and I [Sir William  
 “ Temple] on different grounds. Lord Shaftsbury’s was plain,  
 “ *That there could be no security against the Duke, if once in pos-  
 session of the Crown.* And being well infused by his and the  
 “ Duke







“ Duke of Monmouth’s friends in the House of Commons,  
 “ occasioned their sudden rejecting all expedients offered them  
 “ by the King. During all these transactions (saith Sir Wil-  
 “ liam Temple <sup>m</sup>) Lord Sunderland, Lord Essex, Lord Halifax,  
 “ and I, continued our constant meetings and consultations,  
 “ and with so much union, and so disinterested endeavours, for  
 “ the general good of his Majesty’s service, and the Kingdom’s;  
 “ that I could not but say to them at the end of one of our meet-  
 “ ings: That we four, were either the four honestest men in Eng-  
 “ land, or the greatest knaves; for we made one another at  
 “ least believe, that we were the honestest men in the world.

“ But after the Houses of Parliament, rejecting the expedients  
 “ offered by the King and Council, Lord Shaftsbury finding  
 “ himself neither in confidence with the King, nor credit in  
 “ the Council, inflamed the House of Commons to that degree,  
 “ as made the Lords [beforementioned] cast about which way  
 “ to lay the storm. At length Lord Sunderland told me, that  
 “ Lord Essex, and Lord Halifax were of opinion, that it was  
 “ necessary to take in the Duke of Monmouth, and Lord Shafts-  
 “ bury, into the first digestion of affairs, considering the in-  
 “ fluence they had on the House; and for this end to agree  
 “ with them in the banishment of the *Duke*, either for a certain  
 “ term, or during the King’s life; and desired to know whether  
 “ I would fall into it with them, and join in bringing it about  
 “ with the King. I told Lord Sunderland, positively I would  
 “ not: &c. This was peremptory, and so it ended: The three  
 “ Lords fell into meetings and consultations, with the Duke of  
 “ Monmouth, and Lord Shaftsbury.

The Earl of Sunderland being so much concerned in all councils, I concluded, this brief abstract from Sir William Temple, could not properly be omitted, as it shews his Lordship’s disposition and endeavours, both for the King’s ease and quiet, as well as the satisfaction of his people. But such was that conjunction, as Sir William Temple <sup>n</sup> observes, that it lasted little more than a fortnight, the Duke of Monmouth and Lord Shaftsbury endeavouring to be at the head of all affairs, by prevailing on the House of Commons, to bring the King into necessities of yielding all points to them. So that the three Lords agreed on proroguing the parliament, as the only remedy left in the present distemper; and communicating their thoughts to Sir William Temple, he was of the same opinion; and they were to propose it to the King and Council. And in this resolution (says Sir William) we parted, and appointed to meet again two days after, for the fixing it with his Majesty. And going into the country, and returning the third morning early, he found Lord Sunderland had called or

<sup>m</sup> Memoirs, Part III. p. 37, & seq.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid. p. 40, 41, & seq.

sent several times to his house the night before, and left word he must needs speak with him. As soon as he came to town, he sent immediately to Whitehall, but found his Lordship was gone with the King to the House of Peers. Whereupon he went to Lord Essex, as nearest him, and asked whether any thing new had happened; who told him, that the King had found there were remonstrances ready prepared in the House of Commons to inflame the city and nation, on the points of plot and popery; and that their three Lordships having upon it consulted with his Majesty, he had resolved the parliament should be prorogued that morning, upon the King's coming to the house; and that it could not be allowed time, by a debate of council. Accordingly the parliament was prorogued, with great resentment of both Houses, and such rage of Lord Shaftsbury, that he said on it aloud in the house, he would have the heads of those who were the advisers of the prorogation.

On stories being raised of Sir William Temple\*, being a man of arbitrary principles, Lord Sunderland on the knowledge thereof, <sup>p</sup> “thought that he who had such a part in the King’s affairs, ought to stand as well as he could with the House of Commons (where endeavours being made for impeaching him there, for making the general peace) pressed him to suffer several things he had formerly written, and of which copies had run, to be then printed (as they were) under the title of Miscellanea. He thought (says Sir William) by that publication, men would see, I was not a man of the dangerous principles pretended; and I might assure the world, of being author of no books that had not my name. Lord Halifax commending them to me in general, told me as a friend, that I should take heed of carrying too far the principle of paternal dominion (which was deduced in the Essay of Government) for fear of destroying the rights of the people. So tender was every body of those points at that time.”

After Lords Sunderland, Essex, and Halifax, had no commerce with the Duke of Monmouth and Lord Shaftsbury, Sir William Temple came again to their meetings and consultations, wherein they were unanimous, as he observes, “And considered how to make way for a better tempered session of parliament, after the short prorogation made. They also concluded measures with Holland in all points, to the satisfaction of their ambassador; and thought of such acts of council, as might express his Majesty’s care for suppressing popery, even in the intervals of parliament.”

There had been a perpetual appearance of ill humour at council, between Lord Shaftsbury, and Lord Halifax, which often broke into spiteful repartees between them<sup>q</sup>; and the Duke of

\* *Memoirs*, Part III, p. 44.

<sup>p</sup> *Ibid.* p. 46.

<sup>q</sup> *Ibid.* p. 51.







Monmouth had broken all measures with Lord Essex. And the term of the prorogation of parliament being near, all agreed the session could not conveniently begin before October, and a day was appointed to consider of it in council. “ The Duke of  
“ Monmouth (says Sir William<sup>r</sup>) was greater than ever :  
“ Lord Shaftsbury reckoned on being so too, at the meeting of  
“ the parliament, and at the cost of those he took to be authors  
“ of the prorogation : Lords Essex and Halifax looked upon  
“ themselves as most in danger, and aimed at by Lord Shaftsbury’s threats, and out of all measures with the Duke of  
“ Monmouth. This induced a consultation among us, whether  
“ considering the distempers of the present parliament, the best  
“ course were not to dissolve it, and have another called in  
“ October ; wherein the three Lords and I agreed, and the  
“ King was perfectly of the same mind. So it was resolved,  
“ his Majesty should propose at the next council, whether it  
“ were best to prorogue that parliament, or dissolve it, and at  
“ the same time call another ; and that at the same time, the  
“ Lord Chancellor, and other chief officers depending on the  
“ King, should be acquainted with his mind, either by his  
“ Majesty, or the three Lords. In our last meeting we had  
“ calculated how many at council, could in any probability  
“ oppose dissolving the parliament, and calling another ; and  
“ concluded there could not be above six against it at the most ;  
“ which we thought a great support to the King’s resolution,  
“ against the exclamations expected from Lord Shaftsbury and his  
“ friends : When the council-day came, I asked Lords Sunderland and Halifax, whether all was prepared ; and Lord Chancellor, and other chief officers had been spoke to ? They said  
“ no, it had been forgotten or neglected ; but the King would  
“ do it to each of them apart, as they came that morning, and  
“ before the council began. When the council sat the King  
“ proposed his thoughts, whether it was best for his affairs, to  
“ prorogue the parliament till October, or dissolve it, and call  
“ another at that time ; and desired their opinions in it.

“ I observed (says Sir William) a general surprize at the  
“ board ; which made me doubt the King had spoke of it to  
“ few or none but the Chancellor before he came in ; but it  
“ soon appeared he had not done that neither, for after a short  
“ pause, he was the first that rose up, and spoke long and violently against the dissolution ; was followed by every man  
“ there, except the three Lords, who spoke for the dissolution ;  
“ but neither they with half the length or force of argument  
“ they intended to have done ; leaving that part, as I supposed,  
“ to me. I was the last but one to speak, and saw argument  
“ would signify nothing, after such inequality was declared in

<sup>r</sup> Memoirs, p. 55, &c.

“ number : And said in short, that I thought it was every  
 “ man’s opinion, that a happy agreement between his Majesty  
 “ and his parliament was of necessity to his affairs, both at  
 “ home and abroad. That his Majesty had spoken so much of  
 “ his despairing about any agreement with this parliament, and  
 “ the hopes he had of doing it with another ; that for my part I  
 “ thought his Majesty could better judge of it than any body  
 “ else. So his Majesty ordered the Chancellor to draw up a  
 “ proclamation for dissolving the parliament, dated July 12, 1679,  
 “ and calling another to assemble in October following.” Which  
 parliament was prorogued to the 26th of January<sup>s</sup>, at which  
 time the King made a short speech to the two Houses, and then  
 commanded the Lord Chancellor to prorogue them to the 15th  
 of April next, 1680.

But the King in August 1679<sup>t</sup>, fell sick at Windsor, and  
 with three such fits of a fever<sup>u</sup>, as gave much apprehension,  
 and a general amazement ; people looking on any ill to the  
 King as an end of the world ; as observed by Sir William  
 Temple, who after the second fit, waited on his Majesty ; and  
 did not think him in danger. And that he found and left the  
 three Lords very diligent at Court, attending both his person  
 and affairs, which he was very glad of, and so went home,  
 without entering further into discourses with them, than on his  
 Majesty’s sickness.

The Duke of York returned into England Sept. 2, to the  
 general surprize of the nation ; and the secret of his coming  
 was not known, till Sir William Temple disclosed it. He as-  
 serts<sup>v</sup>, “ That on the King’s first illness, the Lords Essex and  
 “ Halifax, being about him, thought his danger great, and  
 “ their own so too ; and that if any thing happened to the  
 “ King’s life, the Duke of Monmouth would be at the head of  
 “ the nation, in opposition to the Duke and popery ; and in  
 “ conjunction with Lord Shaftsbury, who had threatned to  
 “ have their heads on prorogation of the last parliament ; which  
 “ threat, Lords Essex and Halifax applied to themselves ;  
 “ reckoning Lord Sunderland out of danger, by his relation to  
 “ Lord Shaftsbury, and the fair terms between them. This  
 “ fright had so affected these two Lords, that not staying to  
 “ see what the King’s second fit would be, they proposed to  
 “ the King, the sending immediately for the Duke ; which be-  
 “ ing resolved, and the dispatch made with all the secrecy and  
 “ speed, the Duke came over ; but finding the King recovered,  
 “ it was agreed to pass for a journey of his own, and that it  
 “ should be received by his Majesty and the three Lords, with  
 “ all signs of surprize. When this was done, they found the

<sup>s</sup> Hist. of England, Vol. III. p. 365.  
 p. 67, 68.

<sup>v</sup> Ibid. p. 73, 79, 80.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid.

<sup>u</sup> Temple’s Memoirs,







“ Duke of Monmouth so enraged at this council, as well as  
 “ Lord Shaftsbury, that they saw no way but to ruin them  
 “ both, and throw them quite out of the King’s affairs, and  
 “ joining themselves wholly with the Duke’s interest; which  
 “ they did for that time, till they had brought about all his  
 “ Highness desired for his security, against the Duke of Mon-  
 “ mouth, and Lord Shaftsbury; the first going over to Holland,  
 “ and the other being turned out of the council.”

Not long after, Lords Essex and Halifax grew discontented  
 \* upon the private examination, of that called the *Meal-Tub-Plot*; finding themselves mentioned in it, and yet left out of  
 the secret examinations thereof. So that Lord Essex † resigned  
 his place of first Commissioner of the Treasury, November 19,  
 1679; and Lord Halifax retired to his seat at Rufford.

On Lord Essex’s leaving the Treasury Mr. Hyde (after Earl  
 of Rochester) came of course to be first Commissioner ‡, and  
 was sworn of the privy council; and February 4, following,  
 Sidney Godolphin Esquire, (after Earl of Godolphin) the 2d  
 Commissioner of the Treasury, was sworn of the privy council,  
 and took his place at the board. “ These two, saith Sir Wil-  
 “ liam Temple §, had always been my friends, and agreed  
 “ with me in all my opinions and measures, about affairs a-  
 “ broad or at home. And joining in confidence with the Lord  
 “ Sunderland, were esteemed to be alone in the secret and  
 “ management of the King’s affairs, and looked upon as the  
 “ Ministry. October came on, wherein the parliament was  
 “ to meet. The Duke was in Flanders; the Duke of Mon-  
 “ mouth in Holland; and Lord Shaftsbury set on foot peti-  
 “ tions, in case they did not sit ¶. The King in council af-  
 “ ter a little pause told them, that upon many considerations  
 “ which he could not at present acquaint them with, he found  
 “ it necessary to make a longer prorogation of the parliament  
 “ than he had intended: That he had considered all the conse-  
 “ quences, so far as to be absolutely resolved, and not to hear  
 “ any thing that should be said against it; and charged the  
 “ Lord Chancellor to prorogue it to that time twelvemonth.  
 “ All at council were stunned with this surprizing resolution,  
 “ and the way of proposing it; except those few who were in  
 “ the secret, and they thought fit to be silent, and leave it  
 “ wholly on his Majesty. Several rose up, and would have  
 “ entered into the consequences of it; but the King would not  
 “ hear them.”

It’s related by Bishop Burnet §, that about this time, the  
 Prince of Orange had projected an alliance with France; and

\* Memoirs, p. 85, 86.

† Hist. of England, Vol. III. p. 367.

‡ Ibid.

& p. 368. § Memoirs, p. 87, 88.

¶ Ibid. p. 89, 90.

§ History

of his own Times, 8<sup>o</sup>. Vol. II. p. 114.

that the Earl of Sunderland entred into a particular confidence with the Prince, which he managed by his uncle Mr. Sidney [after Earl of Romney] who was sent envoy to Holland.

Sir William Temple recites <sup>d</sup>, “ Lord Sunderland was struck  
 “ with the boldness of the lords presentment [of the Duke] in  
 “ Westminster-Hall, and the consequence of such men being  
 “ so desperately engaged in an attempt they were like to be  
 “ seconded, by the humour of the nation, on the alarms of  
 “ popery; which made him conclude the King would not be  
 “ able to support the Duke any longer, but be forced to se-  
 “ parate his interest from him. And he believed the King  
 “ was of the same mind. Mr. Godolphin fell into the same  
 “ thoughts with Lord Sunderland, both of the thing it self,  
 “ and of the King’s mind in it: so as upon the debate in  
 “ council, concerning the Duke’s stay, or going back into  
 “ Scotland before the parliament met, they joined absolutely  
 “ in the reasons and advices of his going away: And though  
 “ the rest of the council were generally of the contrary opinion,  
 “ yet the King concluded thereon against the Duke’s will  
 “ and his friends.

The Duke went away <sup>e</sup>, and the parliament met October 21, 1680. “ The Dutchess of Portsmouth declared openly for  
 “ the exclusion of the Duke <sup>f</sup>; and so did Lord Sunderland,  
 “ and Mr. Godolphin. Lord Sunderland assured all people that  
 “ the King was resolved to settle matters with his parliament  
 “ on any terms, since the interest of England, and the affairs  
 “ of Europe made a league against France indispensably ne-  
 “ cessary at that time; which could not be done without a  
 “ good understanding at home. Lord Halifax assured me [Bishop  
 “ Burnet] that any limitations whatsoever leaving the title  
 “ of King to the Duke, might be obtained of his Majesty.  
 “ But that he was positive and fixed against the exclusion,  
 “ which was in a great measure imputed to his management,  
 “ and that he wrought the King up to it.”

The bill passed the House of Commons, and was brought up to the Lords <sup>g</sup>. The Earls of Essex and Shaftsbury argued most for it; and the Earl of Halifax against it; and in conclusion was thrown out upon the first reading, the whole bench of Bishops being against it. The Commons inflamed at the fate of their bill, addressed the King to remove Lord Halifax from his councils and presence forever. The King was resolved and declared against the bill, which induced several to form expedients, whereof one was drawn by Bishop Burnet, to be managed chiefly by Littleton, then in commission of the Admiralty, *That there should be a protector declared, with whom*

<sup>d</sup> Memoirs, p. 114, 115, 116.

<sup>e</sup> Hist. England, p. 371.

<sup>f</sup> Bishop

Burnet, præd. p. 116.

<sup>g</sup> *ibid.* p. 118, 119.







*Regal Power should be lodged, and the Prince of Orange to be named.* Lord Halifax, and Seymour liked it; but says the Bishop, *I wondered to find Lord Sunderland did not go into it.*

Sir William Temple recites <sup>h</sup>, “ The King’s quarrels to Lord Sunderland were chiefly two; first his voting in the Lord’s House for the bill of exclusion, not only against the King’s mind, but his express command. And I remember, when I spoke to him of it, as what the King must resent; and what I was confident he would be steady in, he told me it was too late, for his honour was engaged, and he could not break it. The other was a memorial sent over by Mr. Sydney the King’s envoy at the Hague, and given him by pensioner Fagel, representing the sad consequences abroad of his Majesty’s not agreeing with his parliaments; the danger of his Allies, and of the protestant religion; and thereupon, seeming to wish that the King would not break with them, though it were even upon the point of the bill of exclusion. This was believed to be directed and advised by Lord Sunderland to Mr. Sydney his uncle, as a matter that would be of weight to induce the King to pass the bill; and was laid before the foreign committee. But Lord Sunderland protested to me (says Sir William Temple) that he knew nothing of it, till he received a copy from Mr. Sydney, who sent the original to the other secretary. I thought he could not understand the King so ill, as to believe that would be a motive to him to pass the bill, or that it could have any other effect than to anger him at the Dutch, for meddling in a matter that was domestick, not only to the nation, but to the crown. Besides I observed the style to be of one that understood little of our constitution, by several expressions, whereof one was, why the King should not prevent such consequences, when he might do it, by a stroke with a pen; which shewed the author thought our acts of parliament had been passed by only the King’s signing them. And the whole cast of it made me believe it certainly came from pensioner Fagel. However the King, as well as some of the committee, believed this was of Lord Sunderland’s forge; and that many of the heats in the House of Commons, had been encouraged and raised to such height, by his seeming to favour them, which they might think he would not do unless he believed the King would at length comply with them.”

Sir William Temple also relates, “ That during the session, there was an outrageous quarrel, between Lord Sunderland, and Lord Halifax [who married his sister] not only on their dividing in businesses of the parliament and council; but

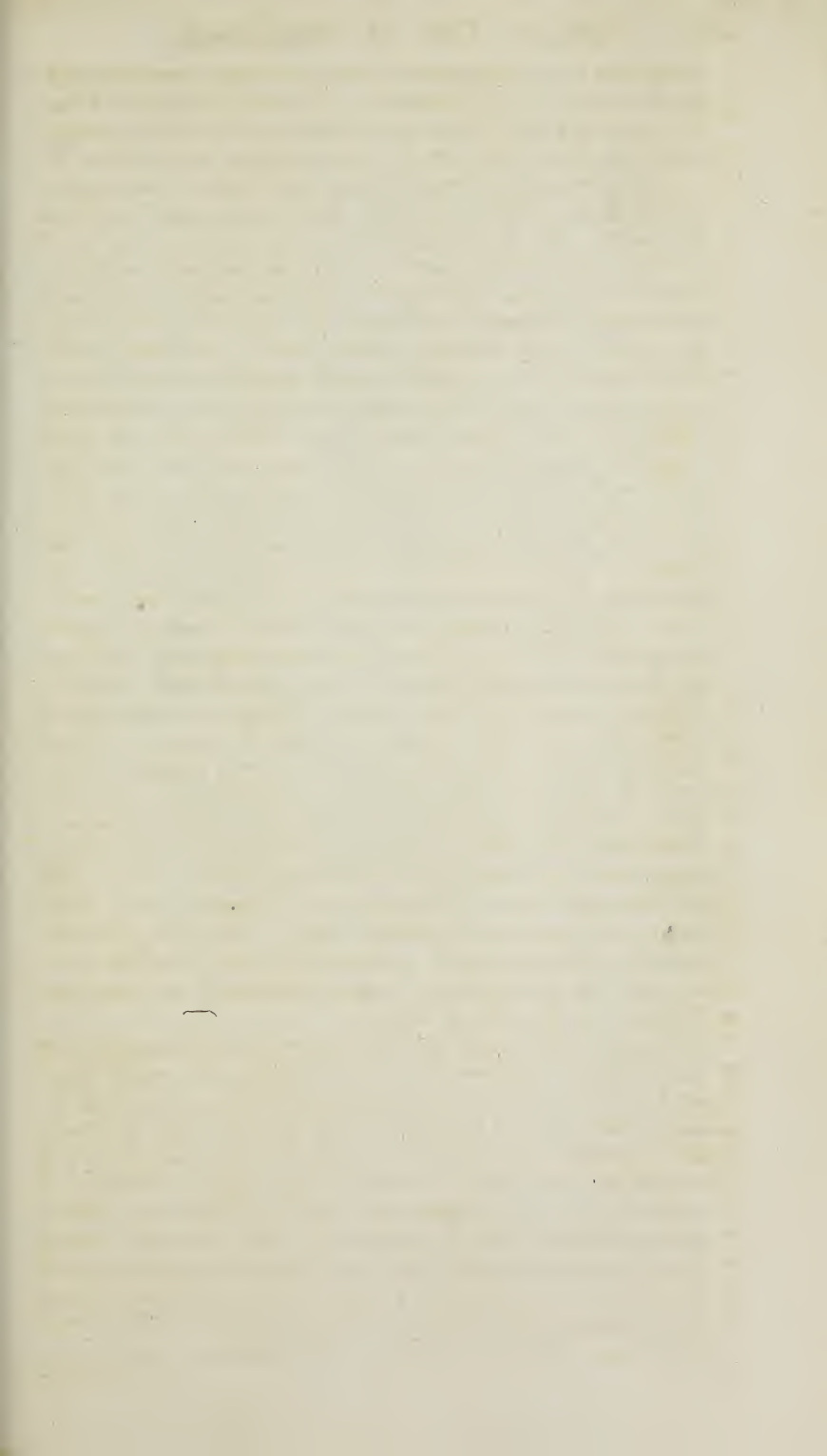
<sup>h</sup> Vide his Memoirs from p. 140 to 148.

“ likewise on Lord Sunderland’s entering into new commerce and  
 “ measures with Lord Shaftsbury; as Lord Halifax told him.  
 “ But Lord Sunderland told him another reason of their quarrel,  
 “ which he said broke out the same night a debate arose at  
 “ council, concerning the address of the House of Commons  
 “ against Lord Halifax, wherein Lord Sunderland had been  
 “ of opinion, the King should not yield to it: but after  
 “ council, Lord Halifax went to Lord Sunderland’s lodgings,  
 “ where they fell into discourse of what had passed: and Lord  
 “ Sunderland told him, that though he had given his opinion  
 “ in council, as he thought became him; yet if such an ad-  
 “ dress should ever be made against himself, he would cer-  
 “ tainly desire leave of the King to retire, as it would be  
 “ for his service. Upon which, Lord Halifax fell into such  
 “ a passion, that he went out of the room, and from that time  
 “ they hardly lived in any common civility where they met.  
 “ The refiners (saith Sir William) thought Lord Halifax,  
 “ who saw himself topped by Lord Sunderland’s credit and  
 “ station at court, resolved to fall in with the King, on the  
 “ point then in debate about the bill of exclusion, wherein he  
 “ found the King steady, and that Lord Sunderland would  
 “ lose himself; so that falling into confidence with the King  
 “ upon such a turn, he should be alone chief in the ministry  
 “ without competitor. At least the reasoners on this matter  
 “ could find no other ground for such a change in Lord  
 “ Halifax’s course, after what he had so long steer’d, and so  
 “ lately in being the chief promoter, of the Duke’s being sent  
 “ away to Scotland, just before the meeting of the Parliament.”  
 “ These were the reasons, that Lord Sunderland, Lord Essex’s  
 “ names, and mine were struck out of the council.” And on the  
 2d of February 1680-1<sup>i</sup>, Edward Earl of Conway, was sworn  
 Secretary of State in his Lordship’s place. The King had dis-  
 solved the parliament, and ordered the Lord Chancellor to  
 issue writs for the calling of a new parliament, to be holden  
 at Oxford, on the 21st of March.

Whereupon the heads of the University of Cambridge sent  
 to Sir William Temple<sup>k</sup>, to know whether he would stand  
 again for their election; who going to the King to know his  
 pleasure, what answer to return: His Majesty said, as *Things*  
*stood, he thought it as well for him to let it alone*; which he said  
 he would do. “ When I left the King, says Sir William, I  
 “ went to Lord Sunderland, and told him what had passed;  
 “ who took this as the first certain sign of his Majesty’s having  
 “ fixed his resolution, and left off all thoughts of agreeing with  
 “ his parliaments, and of his having taken his measures another  
 “ way, for the supply of his treasures in the ill condition they

<sup>i</sup> Hist. of England, Vol. III. p. 380, 381.

<sup>k</sup> Vide Memoirs, p. 236, 237, 238.







“ were in. And that if there were any thoughts of agreeing  
“ with the next parliament, the King he was sure would have  
“ been glad to have had me in the house. He said upon it in  
“ some passion, that he now gave all for gone, and that he  
“ must confess I knew the King better than he had done”

His Lordship, after his dismissal from the administration, was in no discontent, or held commerce with those Lords who were inflamed against the Court. The parliament being appointed to meet at Oxford, many were<sup>1</sup> apprehensive of arbitrary designs; and thereupon the Duke of Monmouth, the Lord Shaftsbury, with several other Lords, petitioned the King, that he would be graciously pleased to order it to sit at Westminster; and Lord Essex delivered the petition; but Lord Sunderland refused to sign it, and his Majesty persisted in his resolution of holding the parliament at Oxford. On their meeting the Lords and Commons disagreeing on the impeachment of Fitz-Harris, and the bill for excluding the Duke of York being read the first time<sup>m</sup>, the King thereupon dissolved the parliament, when it had sat but eight days.

Soon after, the King, and his Ministers, called some of the late chief members of the Houses of Parliament, as well as others, into question for their liberties, and some of them for their lives. But his Majesty dissatisfied with their proceedings, again admitted the Earl of Sunderland, to be sworn of his privy council<sup>n</sup>, on the 20th of Sept. 1682: And on the 31st of January following, he<sup>o</sup> was sworn in council, principal Secretary of State, in the place of the Earl of Conway, who had before succeeded his Lordship. Bishop Burnet has observed<sup>p</sup>, That the King had an entire confidence in the Earl of Sunderland, and that he was reconciled to the Duke, by the mediation of the Lord Hyde: “ And that his Majesty was the more de-  
“ sirous to have his Lordship again near him, that he might  
“ have somebody about him, who understood foreign affairs.  
“ Jenkins understood nothing; but had so much credit with the  
“ high church party, that he was of great use to the Court.  
“ Lord Conway was so very ignorant of foreign affairs, that  
“ his province being the North, when one of the foreign Mi-  
“ nisters talked to him of the circles of Germany, it amazed  
“ him: He could not imagine what circles had to do with  
“ affairs of State. He was now dismissed.

The Earl of Sunderland on his re-admission; was tender of opposing the Duke of York in his measures, who<sup>q</sup> was restored by the King to his place in the council, and to his offices of profit and honour, without any scruple that it was against the

<sup>1</sup> Hist. of England, p. 383, 384.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid. p. 387.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid. p. 396.

<sup>o</sup> Ibid. p. 397.

<sup>p</sup> History of his own Time, p. 183, 184.

<sup>q</sup> Hist. of

England, p. 415.

law to hold them. Yet Bishop Burnet recites <sup>r</sup>, That the King growing uneasy with the Earl of Rochester in the year 1684, he was glad to send him from the Court, and consented to the Duke's request of making him Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. On which Lord Sunderland represented to the King, that though it had been customary for the Lords Lieutenants to be Generals of the army, as well as Governors of the Kingdom; whereby the giving commissions brought the army into their dependence, which was too much in one person. And therefore he proposed there should be a General of the army, independent on the Lord Lieutenant, and who should be a check upon him. And he told the King, That if he thought it was a good maxim for the government of Ireland, he ought to begin it, when a creature of his own was sent thither, who had not such a right to dispute points of that kind with him, as antient Noblemen might pretend to. The Bishop says further, That Lord Rochester was much mortified with it; yet little regard was had to all that he could object to this new method; for the King seemed to be more pleased with it, because it afflicted him so much.

The Bishop also relates <sup>s</sup>, That Lord Sunderland, not long before the King died, formed a new scheme, *that very probably would have for ever broken the King and the Duke.* Yet how it was laid, was so great a secret he could never penetrate into it. But it was laid at Lady Portsmouth's, and Lord Godolphin was also in it. The Duke of Monmouth came over secretly; and though the King did not see him, yet he went back very well pleased with his journey; but he never told his reason to any that he knew of. Mr. May of the privy purse told the Bishop, a design would break out, with which he himself would be well pleased. " And told him, he knew by the King's way, things  
 " were not yet quite ripe, nor he thoroughly fixed on the de-  
 " sign. That with which they were to begin, was, the sending  
 " the Duke to Scotland. And it was generally believed (says  
 " the Bishop) that if the two brothers should be once parted,  
 " they would never meet again. The King spoke to the Duke  
 " concerning his going to Scotland: And he answered, that  
 " there was no occasion for it: Upon which the King replied,  
 " that either he must go, or that he himself would go thither.  
 " His Majesty was observed (says the Bishop) to be colder  
 " and more reserved to the Duke than ordinary. But what  
 " was under all this was still a deep secret <sup>t</sup>. He had for these  
 " last three years, directed all our counsels, with so absolute  
 " an authority, that the King seemed to have left the govern-  
 " ment wholly in his hands:" Yet it is related by all our His-  
 " torians, that had the King lived a few months longer, the  
 " Duke would have been sent from Court.

<sup>r</sup> Hist. of his own Time, p. 274, 275.

<sup>s</sup> Ibid. p. 278, 279.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid. p. 297.







On the demise of King Charles, the Earl <sup>u</sup> of Sunderland was one of the privy council, that signed the order dated at Whitehall, February 6, 1684, for proclaiming James the II. King of England, &c. And employments ending with the life of the King, his Majesty by proclamation <sup>w</sup>, signified his pleasure, that all men should continue in their places till his further order. Bishop Burnet recites <sup>x</sup>, “ That the Earl of Sunderland was looked on as a man lost at Court; and so was Lord Godolphin. But the Earl of Rochester upon his advancement, became so violent and boisterous, that the whole Court joined to support the Earl of Sunderland, as a proper ballance to the other. And the Queen was made to consider the Earl of Rochester, as a person that would be in the interests of the King’s daughters; so she saw it was necessary, to have one in a high post, who should depend wholly on her, and the Earl of Sunderland was the only person capable.”

His Lordship was one <sup>y</sup> of the commissioners, appointed to hear and determine the claims concerning services to be performed at the King’s Coronation. After the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth was suppressed, the King in his speech to the parliament, the 9th of November 1685 <sup>z</sup>, tells them, “ Let no man take exception, that there are some officers in the army not qualified according to the late Tests for their employments, &c. I will deal plainly with you, that after having had the benefit of their services in such time of need and danger, I will neither expose them to disgrace, nor my self to the want of them, if there should be another rebellion.” To which the Commons in their address to the King, represent, *That the officers cannot by law be capable of their employments; and the incapacities they bring upon themselves that way, can no way be taken off but by an act of parliament, &c.* “ And therefore beseech his Majesty, that he will give such directions therein, that no apprehensions or jealousies, may remain in the hearts of his loyal subjects.”

On that head, the Earl of Sunderland in his letter to a friend in London, in his own vindication, licensed March the 23d 1689, says, “ The dispensing power I never heard spoken of, till the time of Monmouth’s rebellion, that the King told some of the council, of which I was one, that he was resolved to give employments to Roman catholicks, it being fit that all persons should serve that could be useful, and on whom he might depend: I think every body advised

<sup>u</sup> Gazette, No. 2006.

<sup>w</sup> Hist. of England, Vol. III. p. 420.

<sup>x</sup> Hist. of his own Time, p. 299.

<sup>y</sup> Hist. of King James’s Coronation.

<sup>z</sup> Hist. of England, Vol. III. p. 434, 435.

“ him against it; but with little effect as was soon seen.  
 “ The party was so well pleased with what the King had  
 “ done, that they persuaded him to mention it in his speech  
 “ at the next meeting of the parliament; which he did af-  
 “ ter many debates whether it was proper or not; in all  
 “ which I opposed it.”

On the 4th of December 1685, the King <sup>a</sup> in council declared the Earl of Sunderland (principal Secretary of State) Lord President of the council, and his Lordship took his place at the board the same day. By which titles of Lord President of the council, and principal Secretary of State, he <sup>b</sup> was in 1686, in the commission of ecclesiastical affairs. But his Lordship in that commission, was seldom at their meetings, and did all in his power to soften any rigorous proceedings. He declares in his letter March 23, 1689 <sup>c</sup>, *I can most truly say, and it is well known, that for a good while I defended Magdalen College, purely by care and industry; and have hundreds of times begged of the King, never to grant mandates, or to change any thing in the regular course of ecclesiastical affairs, which he often thought reasonable; and afterwards by perpetual importunities, was prevailed on against his own sense. Which was the very case of Magdalen College; as also of some others.*

Under such a weak and bigotted Prince, breaking in on the established religion of the nation, in which he had been educated, it's hardly possible to conceive the difficulties attending a chief minister of state, desirous of serving his King and country. And though his Lordship has been censured by some writers (who not examining into facts, or not impartially considering them) for the part he acted, whilst our laws and religion were endangered: Yet I think it may justly be said, that no person in his station, could act with more sincerity, honour and integrity, or with greater abilities. And after the strictest inquisition, none of his enemies could make it appear, that whilst he served King James, he ever discovered or betrayed any of his secrets, or ever pushed him on to violent proceedings. On the contrary, his Lordship always suggested moderate councils to his Majesty; but even that point has by some been imputed to him as a crime.

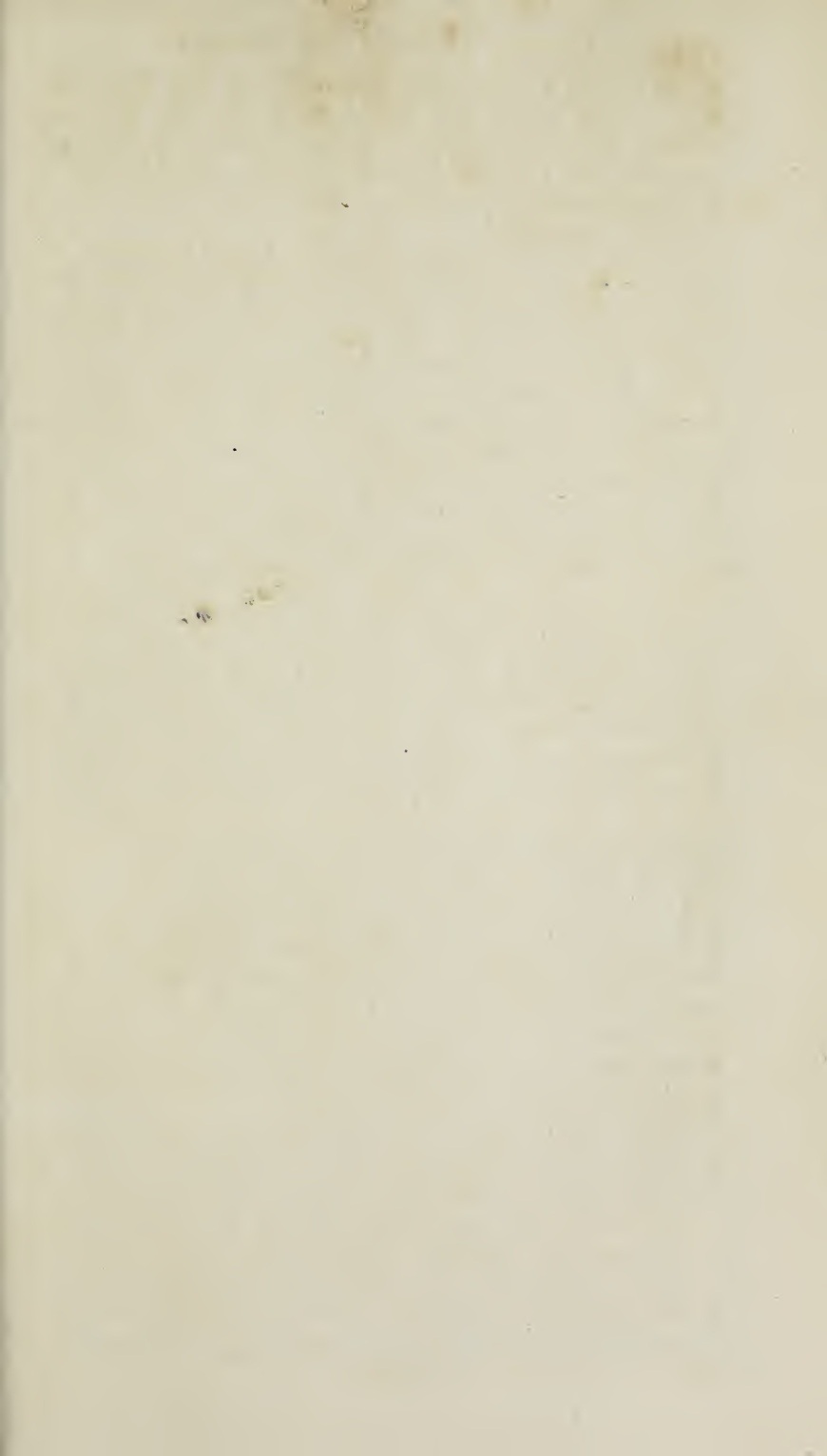
Bishop Burnet relates <sup>d</sup>, “ He made the step to popery,  
 “ without any previous instruction or conference: so that the  
 “ change looked too like a man, who having no religion, took  
 “ up one rather to serve a turn, than that he was truly chang-  
 “ ed from one religion to another. He has been since ac-  
 “ cused, as if he had done all this to gain credit, more ef-  
 “ fectually to ruin the King. There was a suspicion of another

<sup>a</sup> Hist. of England, præd. p. 440.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. p. 452.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 501.

<sup>d</sup> Hist. of his own Time, Vol. II. p. 483.







“ nature, which stuck with some in England, who thought  
 “ that Mr. Sidney [his mother’s brother] who had the secret  
 “ of all the correspondence, between the Prince of Orange,  
 “ and his party in England [in order to his coming over]  
 “ being in particular friendship with the Earl of Sunderland,  
 “ the Earl had got into that secret: and they fancied he  
 “ would get into the Prince’s confidence by Mr. Sidney’s  
 “ means. So I was writ to (says the Bishop) and desired to  
 “ put it home to the Prince, *Whether he was in any confidence,*  
 “ *or correspondence with the Earl of Sunderland, or Not? For*  
 “ *till they were satisfied in that matter, they would not go on,*  
 “ *since they believed he would betray all, when things were ripe*  
 “ *for it, and that many were engaged in the design.* The  
 “ Prince upon that did say very positively, *He was in no*  
 “ *sort of correspondence with him.* His counsels (says the  
 “ Bishop) lay then another way; and if his scheme had been  
 “ followed, the nation might have been so laid asleep, with  
 “ promises and a different conduct; as in a slow method, they  
 “ might have that, they were so near losing, by their  
 “ violent proceedings.”

However, notwithstanding what has been said, it may very justly be imputed to his Lordship’s temporising, and his arguments with the King, whereby he refused the French succours that were offered; and dissuading his Majesty from securing the principal persons he suspected; *That we now enjoy the valuable Blessings of our religion and liberties; and the happy establishment thereof, in his present Majesty, and his Royal Family.*

I shall now relate, how far his Lordship was concerned, whilst he was at the head of affairs. Bishop Kennet, in his life of James the II<sup>d</sup>, under the year 1686, recites, “ The King did not only closet his judges, and officers, on the question of talking of the *Penal laws and test*, but solicited his prime ministers to be reconciled to the church of Rome. He first undertook the Earl of Sunderland, who is said to be obsequious to the King’s desire, but did not care to be *formally reconciled* (as the term was) *to the church of Rome.*” What the tenor of the discourse the King had with him was never known; but father Petre is said to have extremely magnified the Earl’s obedience at a meeting with the jesuits; telling them, *It was necessary for him, as yet to appear a protestant, for weighty reasons of state.* The King’s next solicitation was the Earl of Rochester, &c.

At a chapter of the Garter, held the 26th of April, 1687, his Lordship was elected a Knight Companion of that most noble Order; and personally installed at Windsor the 23d of May following; being placed the 20th Knight in succession, in

the 16th stall in the chapel of St. George at Windsor, where the plate of installation is yet remaining, as follows<sup>c</sup>.

Du tres noble et puissant Seigneur, Robert comte de Sunderland, baron Spencer de Wormleighton, president du Conseil du Roy, premier Secretaire de estat, et chevalier du tres noble ordre de la jartiere, installé au chasteau de Windesore le 23 jour d' May 1687.

On the 2d of July the same year, the King dissolving his parliament, finding they could not be brought to a compliance, in taking off the *penal laws* and *tests*<sup>f</sup>: The Earl of Sunderland gives this account thereof, in his letter of March 23, 1689.

“ The great trial was to take off the *penal laws*, and the *tests*; so  
 “ many having promised their concurrence towards it, that his  
 “ Majesty thought it feasible; but he soon found it was not to  
 “ be done by that parliament, which made all the Catholicks  
 “ desire it might be dissolved; which I was so much against,  
 “ that they complained of me to the King, as a man who ruined  
 “ all his designs, by opposing the only thing that could carry  
 “ them on. Yet I hindered the dissolution several weeks, &c.”  
 And as to Ireland, which was then under Tyrconnel's violent government, his Lordship could not prevent it; for in his said letter, he thus expresses himself<sup>g</sup>.

“ Lord Tyrconnel was so absolute in Ireland, that I never  
 “ had the credit to make an ensign, or keep one in, nor to  
 “ preserve some of my friends, for whom I was much concerned,  
 “ from the last oppression and injustice; but yet  
 “ with care and diligence being upon the place, and he absent,  
 “ I diverted the calling a parliament there, which was designed  
 “ to alter the *Acts of Settlement*. Chief Justice Nugent, and  
 “ Baron Rice, were sent over with the draught of an *Act* for  
 “ that purpose, and was there furnished with all the pressing  
 “ arguments that could be thought on to persuade the King,  
 “ and I was offered forty thousand pounds for my concurrence;  
 “ Which I told to the King, and shewed him at the same time,  
 “ the injustice of what was proposed to him, and the prejudice  
 “ it would be to that country; with so good success, as he resolved  
 “ not to think of it that year, and perhaps never. This  
 “ I was helped in by some friends; particularly my Lord Godolphin,  
 “ who knows it to be true, and so do the judges before named,  
 “ and several others.” His Lordship also, did not advise the reading of the King's declaration in the churches of his dispensing power, for refusing of which the several Bishops were tried; whereof he gives this account.

“ In the midst of preparations for a new parliament, and  
 “ whilst the corporations were regulating, the King thought

<sup>c</sup> Pote's Hist. and Antiq. of Windsor, p. 302.

<sup>f</sup> Hist. of England, p. 495.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid, p. 499.







“ fit to order his declarations to be read in all churches; of  
 “ which I most solemnly protest, I never heard one word till  
 “ the King directed it in council.” And giving an account  
 of what drew on the petition of the Archbishop of Canterbury,  
 and the other Lords the Bishops, and their prosecution, his Lord-  
 ship says, “ That he was so openly against it, that by arguing  
 “ continually to shew the injustice and imprudence of it, I  
 “ brought the fury of the Roman Catholicks upon me to such  
 “ a degree, that I was just sinking, and I wish I had then sunk :  
 “ But whatever I did foolishly to preserve myself, I continued  
 “ still to be the object of their hatred ; and I resolved to serve  
 “ the publick as well as I could : Which I am sure most of the  
 “ considerable protestants then at Court can testify.”

Dr. Sprat Bishop of Rochester, in his second letter to the  
 Earl of Dorset, Lord Chamberlain to King William, to  
 excuse his conduct, in acting in the *Ecclesiastical Commission*,  
 &c. has rightly observed of King James's reign<sup>h</sup>. “ I will  
 “ take the freedom to say, that I make no question, but  
 “ divers good men, who were then in employments, did in  
 “ prudence submit to some things, in order to hinder worse.  
 “ I doubt not but many acted then, not to increase, but to  
 “ mitigate the violence of those times. Some of them were in  
 “ such stations, which perhaps was well done of them, not  
 “ suddenly to desert, lest worse men should come in, to do that  
 “ which they designed to prevent. I believe some being as it  
 “ were, in the middle of the stream, when the tide turned so  
 “ violently against our established church and laws, were driven  
 “ down lower than they expected, before they could resist the  
 “ current, or get to shore.” This without doubt, was meant  
 of Lord Sunderland, and is applicable to his Lordship's saying,  
*I resolved to serve the publick as well as I could.*

When the French<sup>h</sup> advertised King James of the Prince of  
 Orange's intended descent in England, and offered the assistance  
 of his forces, his Lordship advised the King not to accept of  
 them. And on that event, Bishop Burnet<sup>i</sup> has given this ac-  
 count, “ The King of France, when he gave advertisements  
 “ of the preparations in Holland, offered King James such a  
 “ force as he should call for ; twelve or fifteen thousand were  
 “ named, or as many more as he should desire. It was pro-  
 “ posed they should land at Portsmouth, and should have that  
 “ place to keep the communication with France open, and in  
 “ their hands. All the priests were for this, and most of the  
 “ Popish Lords. The Earl of Sunderland was the only man in  
 “ credit that opposed it. He said the offer of an army of 40,000  
 “ men might be a real strength. But then it would depend on

<sup>h</sup> Vide his Letters, p. 31.  
 p. 499, 500.

<sup>i</sup> Hist. of his own Time, 8<sup>o</sup>. Vol. II.

“ the orders that came from France. They might perhaps [with  
 “ other succours] master England: But they would become the  
 “ King’s masters at the same time: So that he must govern  
 “ under such orders as they should give: And thus he would  
 “ quickly become only a Viceroy to the King of France. Any  
 “ army less than that would lose his Majesty the affections of  
 “ his people, and drive his own army to desertion, if not to  
 “ mutiny.” The Earl of Sunderland in his own vindication,  
 says, “ French ships were offered to join with our fleet, and  
 “ they were refused. Since the noise of the Prince’s design,  
 “ more ships were offered, and it was agreed how they should  
 “ be commanded, if ever desired. I opposed to death the ac-  
 “ cepting of them, as well as any assistance of men: And can  
 “ say most truly, that I was the principal means of hindering  
 “ both, by the help of some Lords, with whom I consulted  
 “ every day, and they with me; to prevent what we thought  
 “ would be of great prejudice, if not ruinous to the nation.”

When King James was convinced of the intended invasion of the Prince of Orange, he began to think of reconciling the hearts of his people to him. And to that purpose, declared in council August 24, 1688, that a parliament should meet the 27th of November. And to reconcile the Archbishop of Canterbury, and other Bishops to the King, his Lordship wrote the following letter to the Archbishop of <sup>k</sup> Canterbury.

<sup>1</sup> My Lord,

“ The King thinking it requisite to speak with your Grace,  
 “ and several others of the Bishops, who are within a conve-  
 “ nient distance of this place; his Majesty commands me to  
 “ acquaint you, that he would have you attend him upon  
 “ Friday next, at ten in the morning.

My Lord,

Whitehall, Sept. 24, 1688.

I am your most faithful, &c.

SUNDERLAND P.

And to give satisfaction to the nation, this was published in the Gazette, Whitehall, Sept. 30, “ Several of my Lords the  
 “ Bishops having attended the King on Friday last, his Majesty  
 “ was pleased among other gracious expressions, to let them  
 “ know, *That he would signify his pleasure for taking off the*  
 “ *suspension of the Lord Bishop of London, which is done accord-*  
 “ *ingly.*” Lord Sunderland, in his Letter, gives the following account of that and other salutary measures from his Lordship’s advice. “ Upon the first thought of the Prince of Orange’s  
 “ coming, I laid hold of the opportunity to press the King to

<sup>k</sup> Hist. of England, p. 519.  
 Derfet. p. 21.

<sup>1</sup> Bishop of Rochester’s Letters to the Earl of







“ do several things, which I would have had done sooner; the  
 “ chief of which were, To restore *Magdalen College*, and all  
 “ other *Ecclesiastical Preferments*, that had been diverted from  
 “ what they were intended for: To take off my Lord Bishop of  
 “ London’s suspension: To put the counties into the same  
 “ hands they were in some time before: To annul the *Eccle-*  
 “ *siaſtical Court*: And to restore entirely, all the corporations  
 “ of England. These things were done effectually, by the  
 “ help of some about the King; and it was then thought I had  
 “ destroyed myself, by enraging again the whole Roman Ca-  
 “ tholick party to such a height as had not been seen: They  
 “ dispersed libels of me every day; told the King that I be-  
 “ trayed him; that I ruined him, by persuading him to make  
 “ such shameful condescensions: *But most of all, by hindring*  
 “ *the securing the chief of the disaffected Nobility and Gentry,*  
 “ *which was proposed as a certain way to break all the Prince’s*  
 “ *measures: And by advising his Majesty to call a free parliament,*  
 “ *and to depend upon that, rather than upon foreign assistance.*

Bishop Burnet <sup>n</sup> agrees in the same relation. “ In Eng-  
 “ land, the Court saw now, it was in vain to dissemble, or  
 “ disguise their fears any more. The Earl of Melfort, and all  
 “ the papists, proposed the seizing on all suspected persons,  
 “ and sending them to Portsmouth. The Earl Sunderland  
 “ opposed this vehemently. He said, *It would not be possible to*  
 “ *seize on many at the same time; and the seizing on a few*  
 “ *would alarm all the rest: It would drive them in to the Prince,*  
 “ *and furnish them with a pretence for it: He proposed rather*  
 “ *that the King would do such popular things, as might give*  
 “ *some content, and lay that fermentation, with which the na-*  
 “ *tion was then distracted: This was at that time complied*  
 “ *with: But all the popish party continued upon this to charge*  
 “ *Lord Sunderland as one in the King’s councils, only to*  
 “ *betray them; that had before diverted the offer of assistance*  
 “ *from France, and now the securing those, who were most likely*  
 “ *to join and assist the Prince of Orange. By their importunities,*  
 “ *the King was at last prevailed on, that he turned him out of*  
 “ *all his places.”* His Lordship closes his letter in his own vin-  
 dication, whilst he was employed under King James, as follows.

“ At last accusations of high treason were brought against  
 “ me, which with some other reasons relating to affairs abroad,  
 “ drew the King’s displeasure upon me; so as to turn me out  
 “ of all without any consideration: And yet I thought I escap-  
 “ ed well, expecting nothing less than the loss of my head;  
 “ as Lord Middleton can tell, and I believe none about the  
 “ Court thought otherwise: Nor had it been otherwise, if  
 “ my disgrace had been deferred a day longer, all things be-

<sup>m</sup> Hist. of England, p. 526.

<sup>n</sup> Hist. of his own Time, p. 522.

“ ing prepared for it, I was put out the 27th of October;  
 “ the Roman catholicks having been two months working up  
 “ the King to it, without intermission, besides the several at-  
 “ tacks they had made on me before; and the unusual assistance,  
 “ they obtained to do what they thought necessary for the  
 “ carrying on their affairs; of which they never had greater  
 “ hope than at that time, as may be remembered by any who  
 “ were then in London, &c.” And the next day the King conferred his place on Lord Viscount Preston, which was published in the Gazette \* as follows.

“ Whitehall, October 28, 1688. His Majesty has been pleased to constitute the right honorable the Lord Viscount Preston, one of his principal Secretaries of State, upon the removal of the right honorable the Earl of Sunderland from that office.”

There's not an instance in history, of a *Chief Minister*, that had more difficulties to struggle with than has been mentioned of the noble Earl I am treating on. But he had a clear and ready apprehension, and a superior genius to all of his time, with an unusual dexterity, which supported him, and carried him through all oppositions, till he chose retirement from publick business.

Immediately after his Lordship's dismissal from King James's service, he thought the situation he was in required his withdrawing out of the kingdom for his own safety; so that about the time of the landing of the Prince of Orange in England, his Lordship landed in Holland; where he wrote the letter I have so often quoted, discovering the designs of the romish party, and others, for the subverting of the protestant religion, and the laws of the kingdom, licensed March 23, 1689. And there he resided till after the settlement of the crown on King William and Queen Mary; but so prejudiced were many against his Lordship, that he was <sup>p</sup> excepted out of the *Act of Indemnity and Free Pardon*, which King William signed May 23, 1690. And in 1692, when King James formed a scheme for a descent into England, and was come to La Hogue to embarque, he sent over a formal declaration <sup>q</sup>, wherein he excepted out of his offer of pardon, the Earl of Sunderland, with other noblemen, that were then in the true interests of the nation.

However, about that time, King William, who knew the great abilities of the Earl of Sunderland, consulted with him on the measures necessary to be taken in his government. And before his Majesty went abroad in the beginning of the year 1693, having made some alterations in his offices, by giving the great seal to Sir John Sommers, making Sir John Trenchard

\* Gazette, No. 2394.

<sup>p</sup> Bishop Kennet's Life of King William in Hist. of England, Vol. Iii. p. 597.

<sup>q</sup> Ibid. p. 639.







Secretary of State, and Mr. Montague (after Earl of Halifax) Chancellor of the Exchequer; it's ascribed by Bishop Burnet<sup>r</sup>, *To the great credit the Earl of Sunderland had gained with the King, who had now got into his confidence, and declared openly for the Whigs. These advancements (says the Bishop) had a great effect on the whole party; and brought them to a much better opinion of the King. But as the employing of them had a very good effect in the King's affairs, so a party came to be formed, that studied to cross and defeat every thing; laid by Seymour and Musgrave.*

And when the King returned to England in November following, the Bishop further relates<sup>s</sup>, “ that he saw the necessity of changing both his measures and his ministry; he expressed his dislike of the whole conduct of the sea, and named Ruffel for the command of the fleet next year. He dismissed the Earl of Nottingham and brought the Earl of Shrewsbury again into the ministry, making him Secretary of State, to the general satisfaction of the Whigs. But the person, that had the King's confidence to the highest degree, was the Earl of Sunderland, who by his long experience, and his knowledge of men and things had gained an ascendant over him, and had more credit with him, than any English man ever had. He had brought the King to his change of councils, by the prospect he gave him of the ill condition his affairs were in, if he did not entirely both trust and satisfy those, who in the present conjuncture, were the only party, that both could and would support him. It was said, that the true secret of this change of measures was, that the Tories signified to the King plainly, that they could carry on the war no longer, and that he must accept of such a peace as could be had. This was the most pernicious thing that could be thought on, and most contrary to the King's notions and designs; so the Whigs were now in favour again, and every thing was done to put them in good humour.”

In 1695, the King made a progress into the north, and staid some days with the Earl of Sunderland at Althorp, which was (says Bishop Burnet<sup>t</sup>) the first publick mark of the high favour he was in. It was inserted in the Gazette No 3128, that his Majesty at Althorp on the 23 of October, conferred the honour of knighthood on John Combs Esquier his chief justice of Chester and that he came to Lincoln October 30th. The Bishop afterwards gives some account of his Lordship's endeavors for reconciling the Whigs and Tories in support of his Majesty's government; but they proved ineffectual on a difference between Queen Mary, and her sister the Princess

<sup>q</sup> Hist. of his own Time, Vol. III. p. 148, 149.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid. p. 170, 171.

<sup>s</sup> Ibid. p. 227.

Anne of Denmark. The Dutcheſs of Marlborough gives the following account of his Lordſhip's intereſt with King William, and of his good diſpoſition to the Princeſs. " On " the death of the Queen, the Princeſs, by advice of Lord " Sunderland, wrote a letter to the King, *expreſſing her great " affliction in the loſs of the Queen, &c. and her earneſt deſire " to wait upon his Maſteſty &c.* Quickly " after this letter, " the Princeſs with the King's conſent, and at a time when he " appointed, waited on him at Kenſington, and was received " with extraordinary civility. The perſon who wholly managed the affair between the King and Princeſs, was my Lord " Sunderland. He had upon all occaſions relating to her " ſhewed himſelf a man of ſenſe and breeding; and before " there was any thought of the Queen's dying, had deſigned " to uſe his utmoſt endeavours to make up the breach; in " which however I am perſuaded, he could not have ſucceeded " during the Queen's life. Her death made it eaſy to him " to bring the King to a reconcilment; and he alſo perſuaded his Maſteſty to give the Princeſs St. James's houſe. And " ſome other favours were granted to her Royal Highneſs, " at his Lordſhip's requeſt \*. When the Duke of Glouceſter " was arrived at the age to be put into mens hands, and his " Highneſs's family was ſettled. The King (influenced in this " particular by my Lord Sunderland) ſent the Princeſs word, " that though he intended to put in all the preceptors, he " would leave it to her, to chuſe the reſt of the ſervants; " except one, who was to be Deputy Governor, and Gentleman of the Duke's Bed-chamber. This meſſage was ſo " humane, and of ſo different an air from any thing the " Princeſs had been uſed to, that it gave her an extream pleaſure."

In 1697, the King more publicly expreſſed his favour to his Lordſhip, which was inſerted in the Gazette, N<sup>o</sup> 3281, as follows, " Whitehall, April 19, the right honourable the " Earl of Dorſet and Middleſex having reſigned into his " Maſteſty's hands, the office of Lord Chamberlain of his " houſhold, his Maſteſty has conferred the ſame upon the right " honourable the Earl of Sunderland, to whom he was pleaſed " to deliver the white ſtaff this morning."

And three days after his Lordſhip was ſworn at Kenſington of the privy council, and took his place at the board accordingly \*. Alſo the ſame day, his Maſteſty in council at Kenſington, declared his Lordſhip one of the Lords Juſtices of England for the adminiſtration of the government during his abſence. And on the 4th of June following his Lordſhip as Lord Chamberlain,

\* The Conduct of the Dowager Dutcheſs of Marlborough, p. 108.

p. 110, 111.

\* Ibid. p. 116, 117.

† Gazette, No. 3282.

" Ibid.







sent an, order to prevent the prophaneness, and immorality of the stage.

In that year, a treaty of peace was in agitation, the war growing unacceptable to the nation; and whilst the King was at the head of his army, Marshal Bouffler's desiring to confer with the Earl of Portland, he had his Majesty's orders to meet him<sup>2</sup>. And in three conferences on the 10th, 15th, and 20th of September, preliminaries were settled for a general peace; which was after concluded at Reswick. The terms of it were too much to the advantage of France, but the length and charge of the war, had so exhausted the allies, as well as England, that the King was desirous of accepting the best conditions he could get, for the satisfying of his people: And there was not one of the allies, who complained of being forgot by him, or wronged in the treaty.

On the 3d of December the parliament met, when his Majesty in his speech said<sup>a</sup>, "The circumstances of affairs abroad are such, that I think my self obliged to tell you my opinion, that for the present England cannot be safe without a land force; and I hope we shall not give those who mean us ill, opportunity of effecting that, under the notion of a peace, which they could not bring to pass by a war."

The major part of the House of Commons, were jealous of a standing army (as it was called) and disliked the King's offering his opinion in the point. The managers for the court in the House of Commons, had no orders (says Bishop Burnet<sup>b</sup>) to name any number of men to be kept up, so they came to a resolution of disbanding all the forces raised since 1680, which reduced them to 7000 men to be kept in pay in England. "The court was struck with this, and then tried to raise the number to 15000 horse and foot. If this had been proposed in time, it would probably have been carried; but the King was so long on the reserve, that when he thought fit to speak out his mind, he found it was too late. This gave the King the greatest distaste of any thing that had befallen him in his whole reign. During these debates<sup>c</sup>, the Earl of Sunderland had argued with many on the necessity of keeping a greater force; and he was charged (says the Bishop) as the author of the council of keeping on foot a standing army, so he was often named in the House of Commons with several reflections. The *Tories* pressed hard upon him, and the *Whigs* were so jealous of him, that he apprehending, that while the former would attack him, the others would defend him faintly, resolved to prevent a publick as-

<sup>2</sup> Gazette, No. 3306.  
of his own Time, 8<sup>o</sup>. Vol. II. p. 285.

<sup>a</sup> Hist. of England, Vol. III. p. 740.  
<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 286.

<sup>b</sup> Hist.

“ front, and to retire from the Court, and from business: Not  
 “ only against the intreaties of his friends, but even the King’s  
 “ earnest desire that he would continue about him. Indeed  
 “ (says the Bishop) upon this occasion his Majesty expressed  
 “ such a concern and value for him, that the jealousies were  
 “ encreased by the confidence the Court saw the King had in  
 “ him. During the time of his credit, things had been carried  
 “ on with more spirit and better success than before: He had  
 “ gained such an ascendant over the King, that he brought  
 “ him to agree to some things, that few expected he would have  
 “ yielded to: He managed the publick affairs, in both Houses,  
 “ with so much steadiness, and so good a conduct, that he had  
 “ procured to himself a greater measure of esteem, than he  
 “ had in any of the former parts of his life: And the feeble-  
 “ ness, and disjointed state we fell into after he withdrew, con-  
 “ tributed not a little to establish the character, which his ad-  
 “ ministration had gained him.”

Neither the Bishop, or our Historians, mention the time of his Lordship’s resignation, but the Gazette <sup>d</sup> gives the following account of it, “ Kensington, December 26, (1697.) The  
 “ Right Honourable the Earl of Sunderland having desired his  
 “ Majesty’s leave to resign the office of Lord Chamberlain of  
 “ his Household; his Lordship accordingly delivered up the  
 “ white staff this evening.”

King William was so dissatisfied with the disbanding of the forces, that on the 1st of February following, when he passed the bill, he made a memorable speech, published only in the Gazette <sup>e</sup>, our Historians having omitted it; and being short I insert it.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ I came to pass the bill for disbanding the army, as soon as  
 “ I understood it was ready for me. Though in our present  
 “ circumstances there appears great hazard in breaking such a  
 “ number of the troops; and though I might think myself un-  
 “ kindly used, that those guards, who came over with me to  
 “ your assistance, and have constantly attended me in all the  
 “ actions wherein I have been engaged, should be removed  
 “ from me: Yet it is my fixed opinion, that nothing can be so  
 “ fatal to us, as that any distrust or jealousy should arise be-  
 “ tween me, and my people, which I must own would have  
 “ been very unexpected after what I have undertaken, ventured,  
 “ and acted, for the restoring and securing of their liberties.

“ I have thus plainly told you the only reason, which has in-  
 “ duced me to pass this bill: And now I think myself obliged,  
 “ in discharge of the trust reposed in me, and for my own

<sup>d</sup> Gazette, No. 3353.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid. No. 3467.



are you quite sure it's in France?



“ justification, that no ill consequences may lie at my door, to  
“ tell you as plainly my judgment, that the nation is left too  
“ much exposed.”

This speech did variously affect the Commons, who returned no address of thanks; but it was not advised by the Earl of Sunderland; for his Lordship after his resignation, went directly to his seat at Althorp, and there lived in an exemplary way the remainder of his Life, without coming to council, or troubling himself with publick affairs. His Lordship married the Lady Anne Digby, second and youngest daughter to <sup>f</sup> George Earl of Bristol, Knight of the Garter, by Anne his wife, daughter of Francis Russel, Earl of Bedford, and sister, and at length heir to John Digby, Earl of Bristol, who died in 1698, without issue. She was a Lady distinguished for her refined sense, subtle wit, admirable address, and every shining quality. His Lordship had issue by her, three sons, and four daughters.

1. Robert Lord Spencer, born in 1664, who was in August 1687<sup>g</sup>, sent to Italy, Envoy Extraordinary to his Highness the Duke of Modena, to make the compliments of condolance in their Majesties names, on the death of the Duchesse of Modena, the Queen's mother: And on his return <sup>h</sup>, died at Paris in France, the 5th of September, 1688.

2. Charles, Earl of Sunderland; 3. Henry, who died within an hour after he was baptised.

Lady Anne, eldest daughter, born 24 June, 1666, at Chiswick, who was the first wife of James, Earl of Arran, of the Kingdom of Scotland, after Duke Hamilton, and Duke of Brandon; and died in 1690.

Lady Elizabeth, married <sup>i</sup> 30 October, 1684, to Donagh Maccarty, Earl of Clincarty, of the Kingdom of Ireland.

Lady Isabella, who died unmarried, in 1684; and Lady Mary, who died aged 5 years.

His Lordship departed this life at his seat at Althorp, the 28th of September, 1702<sup>k</sup>, and on the 7th of October following, was buried with his ancestors at Brinton; leaving his Lady surviving, who died on the 16th of April, 1715, <sup>l</sup> and on the 26th of the same month was buried by him. He was succeeded in honour and estate by Charles his only son and heir.

Which Charles Earl of Sunderland, had his education under the learned Dr. Trimnel, who was Bishop of Winchester; and his Lordship, as soon as he came of age, was chosen <sup>m</sup> for two several boroughs, Heydon in Yorkshire, and Tavistock in Com. Devon, in that parliament called in the 7th year of

<sup>f</sup> Ex Stemmat. de Famil. Digby.

<sup>g</sup> Hist. of England, Vol. III. p. 496.

<sup>h</sup> Ex Collect. T. Miller, MS. penes meipf.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid.

<sup>k</sup> Ex Regist. Eccles.

de Brinton.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid.

<sup>m</sup> Willis's Notitia, Parl. Vol. II. p. 386.

King William. Also constantly elected for Tiverton, in five several parliaments, whilst he was a commoner.

On Saturday, the 12th of June 1694-5 his Lordship married the Lady Arabella Cavendish, youngest daughter and co-heir of his Grace Henry Duke of Newcastle<sup>a</sup>. Her Ladyship was born the 19th of August 1673, and died on Saturday the 4th of June 1698, leaving issue by her Lord, an only daughter, the Lady Frances Spencer, married on the 27th of November 1717, to Henry Lord Morpeth, son and heir to Charles Earl of Carlisle, by whom she had issue the present Earl of Carlisle.

On Tuesday the 16th of January 1699<sup>b</sup>, his Lordship took to his second wife, the Lady Anne Churchill, second daughter and one of the co-heirs, of that victorious General, John Duke of Marlborough, and of great beauty and merit.

In 1702, He succeeded his father, in his honours and estate; whereby he became more conspicuous; and being son-in-law to the Duke of Marlborough, and so nearly allied to the Earl of Godolphin Lord High Treasurer, he was in much esteem with their friends.

In the beginning of the year 1705<sup>c</sup>, his Lordship attended on Queen Anne, and her Royal Consort the Prince of Denmark, to Newmarket. And her Majesty with the Prince, appointing the 16th of April for visiting the University of Cambridge, the Earl of Sunderland, with several other noblemen then present, had the degree of Doctors in law conferred on them.

On the 26th of June the same year<sup>d</sup> his Lordship embarked at Greenwich for Holland, being appointed her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, to make the compliments of condolance on the death of the Emperor Leopold, as also of congratulation to his successor the Emperor Joseph: And to endeavour by the Queen's mediation to compose the differences, between his Imperial Majesty, and his subjects in Hungary.

His Lordship, after taking a view of the army, and conferring with the Duke of Marlborough<sup>e</sup>, arrived at Vienna the 26th of August N. S. And when the compliments of condolance and congratulation were over, his Lordship with the Dutch plenipotentiaries had conferences with the Imperial Ministers, and the Hungarian Deputies, to remove several difficulties that retarded the negotiation of peace between them; till the 26th of October, when they set out for Tyrnau; the place appointed for the treaty; they intended to have been there the next day, but did not arrive till the 28th, being re-

<sup>a</sup> Hist. Collect. of the Fam. of Cavendish, &c. v. p. 47. <sup>b</sup> MS. Ex Collect. T. Miller. <sup>c</sup> Annals of Queen Anne, year 4th, p. 12. <sup>d</sup> Ibid. p. 27.

<sup>e</sup> Annals præd. p. 94.



tarded by the numerous guard, the Hungarians sent to attend them<sup>s</sup>; they were received there with all the demonstrations of joy, and marks of respect, by Count Berezini, and the chief of the Hungarians. The Imperial court had appointed Presburgh for the place of treaty, and with difficulty they brought both parties to agree, that the Imperial commissioners should continue at Presburgh, and the Hungarians at Tyrnau; and that a place within an equal distance of those towns, should be for their meeting together. After several conferences, his Lordship, with Mr. Stepney the British Envoy, set out from Tyrnau the second of November for Presburgh, where the next day they conferred with the Imperial commissioners, on a proposal for a cessation of arms; and two days after, his Lordship set out with Mr. Stepney for Vienna, to attend the Duke of Marlborough's arrival, leaving the Dutch ministers to carry on the mediation. His Grace came to Vienna the 12th of November; and<sup>t</sup> on the 19th the Earl of Sunderland had his audiences of leave of the Emperor and Empress; also the next day of the Empress Dowager, and the Arch-Duchesses. His Imperial Majesty presented his Lordship with his picture set with diamonds; and the Duke of Marlborough at that time had a grant from the Emperor, of the Lordship of Mindelheim in Swabia, which was erected into a Principality.

On the 23d of November, his Grace accompanied by the Earl of Sunderland, left Vienna, proceeding to the Court of Berlin. His Imperial Majesty had ordered several of his officers to ride before them to provide horses; and to take care that nothing might retard their journey, whereby they travelled with the greatest speed, notwithstanding the season of the year<sup>u</sup>. The first day they came to Selowitz, a castle 73 miles from Vienna, where Count Zinzendorf the owner, who accompanied them that day's journey, treated his Grace and his Lordship, with great magnificence. The 24th they travelled 63 miles, dining at Wislaw, belonging to the Bishop of Olmutz, and Osnabrugh, brother to the Duke of Lorrain; and the same night came to Olmutz, where they lay in a noble palace of that Prince, and were entertained by his officers. The 25th they travelled 66 miles, and lay at Newstaddle. The 26th they travelled 78 miles, and lay at Breslau, the capital city of Silesia, being treated by Col. Schmettau, who came from Vienna, on purpose to entertain them, by order of the Emperor. The magistrates came in their formalities to complement them, and made them the usual presents of wine &c. The 27th they travelled 62 miles and lay at Luben; and the next day proceeded on their journey 68 miles, and lay at

<sup>s</sup> Annals, præd. p. 96, 97.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid. p. 98.

<sup>u</sup> Ibid. p. 101, 102,

Granberg; the last place in the Imperial territories. The Officers of the Emperor were ordered to take their leave there; but his Grace and his Lordship, desired they would accompany them to Cressen, the next stage, from whence they were dismissed with handsome presents. They arrived the 29th at Cressen, the first town in the King of Prussia's dominions; where they were complimented by the magistrates and lay that night at Frankfort, on the river Oder, 62 miles from Granberg. From thence they travelled 60 miles, and arrived at Berlin in good health; notwithstanding the fatigue of a journey of 532 miles in eight days, in a very hard season. The Duke went the same night to Court, and had a conference with the King of Prussia. The next day he presented the Earl of Sunderland to his Majesty, the Prince Royal, and the King's two brothers, who received his Lordship with all imaginable marks of esteem. They afterwards supped with his Majesty, the Prince Royal, and the King's brothers. Also dined with them the next day at the great chamberlain's. His Grace renewed the treaty, for 8000 men to be employed in Italy; and adjusting some difficulties set out with the Earl of Sunderland from Berlin, the 3d of December N. S. in the evening. The King of Prussia presented his Grace with a sword, enriched with diamonds; and the Earl of Sunderland, with a diamond ring of great value.

The 6th of the same month they arrived at Hanover; and waited the same evening on his Electoral Highness (our late most gracious Sovereign) the Electress Dowager, &c; and were received with the marks of distinction, due to their quality, and extraordinary merits. They presented his Grace with a fine calash, and six horses; and the Earl of Sunderland with a set of horses.

The 9th of December they set out early from Hanover, and arrived at the Hague the 14th; and after his Grace had settled several important affairs with the States General he embarked \* with the Earl of Sunderland at the Brill, the 27th of December; and the next morning early, sailed from thence, under convoy of a Squadron of her Majesty's ships, and arrived at St. James's the 30th at night about eleven o'clock. His Grace, on the meeting of the parliament, had the thanks of both houses, *For his great services in the last campaign, and for his prudent negotiations with her Majesty's allies.*

The campaign that year was attended with various fortune; the brave Prince Eugene with an army, almost wholly unprovided of cloaths, arms, ammunition, or provisions, had kept the French army under the Duke of Vendosme, from compassing their great designs. Therefore the Duke of Marlborough, and

\* Annals, ut antea, p. 216.







the Earl of Sunderland, when at Vienna, being sensible of his services and wants, had convinced his Imperial Majesty, of the necessity of supplying him with forces and money. So that on their return, his Imperial Majesty's Ministers in England, presented a memorial to the Queen, desiring a loan of 250000 l. sterling, for supply of the army in Italy, on security of all his lands, rents and revenues whatsoever, within the province of Silesia; as also the security of the states of that province: Whereupon her Majesty by her Letters Patents, bearing date the 26th of February, in the 4th year of her reign<sup>y</sup>, recommended to her loving subjects, the speedy making of the said loan, as a matter acceptable, &c. and of the greatest advantage to the affairs of the war in general. Accordingly books being opened at Mercer's Chapel, on the 7th of March, for taking subscriptions towards lending the said 250000 l. at 8 per Cent. pursuant to the said Letters Patents, his Royal Highness Prince George, sent his subscription of 20000 l. the Duke of Marlborough, 10000 l. the Earl of Godolphin Lord High Treasurer, 5000 l. the Earl of Sunderland, 2500 l. &c. whereby in five days, the whole subscription was fully compleated.

The next year, April 10, his Lordship<sup>z</sup> was appointed one of the English Commissioners, for treating on a union with Scotland: Who on their meeting, agreed to appoint a committee of eleven on each side, and of them, any six to have power to adjust the several points in debate; and his Lordship on a meeting the first of May, of the English Commissioners<sup>a</sup>, was nominated one of the committee of eleven before-mentioned, with power to adjourn themselves. Also<sup>b</sup> set his hand and seal to the articles agreed on by the commissioners of both Kingdoms, for the Union, the 22d of July 1706. The same year December 3, his Lordship<sup>c</sup> was sworn of her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, and one of her principal Secretaries of State, in the room of Sir Charles Hedges. Whilst he continued in that important trust, he discharged it with great sufficiency; and on all occasions exerted himself in maintaining the honour and interests of the nation, both in his station, and in parliament.

In 1708, a new Privy Council being settled, according to an act on the Union of the two Kingdoms, his Lordship<sup>d</sup>, May 10, was sworn thereof. And in 1709, the affair of Dr. Sacheverel, engaging the attention of the nation; he was<sup>e</sup> one of the sixty-nine Peers, that pronounced him guilty of the impeachment, brought by the House of Commons.

<sup>y</sup> Annals, Ibid. p. 126, 127.

<sup>z</sup> Annals, year 5th, p. 12.

<sup>a</sup> Ibid.

<sup>b</sup> Appendix in Annals, year 5th, p. 25.

<sup>d</sup> Pointer's Chron. Hist. Vol. II. p. 592, 593.

<sup>c</sup> Annals, p. 493.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid. p. 930.

Dr. Sacheverel, had so favourable a sentence, as to be at liberty to sojourn where he pleased; and his itinerant processions, through several parts of the Kingdom, causing riots and disorders, the Earl of Bradford, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, laid before the Earl of Sunderland, a representation of several gentlemen of the said county, concerning the tumults, seditions, &c. on that occasion.

His Lordship laying it before the Queen and Council, he was ordered to return an answer; and thereupon April 10, 1710, wrote to the Earl of Bradford, "That her Majesty expressed her dislike of those riotous and seditious proceedings, &c. by which the publick peace is broken: And that it was her Majesty's pleasure, that his Lordship, and the gentlemen of the county, should effectually prosecute the offenders, with the utmost severity of the law." Which letter of the Earl of Bradford's, with his representation, and the answer thereto, being published in the Gazette<sup>f</sup>, it gave such offence to the *High-Church* party, that they used all endeavours, to get his Lordship removed from his place of Secretary of State.

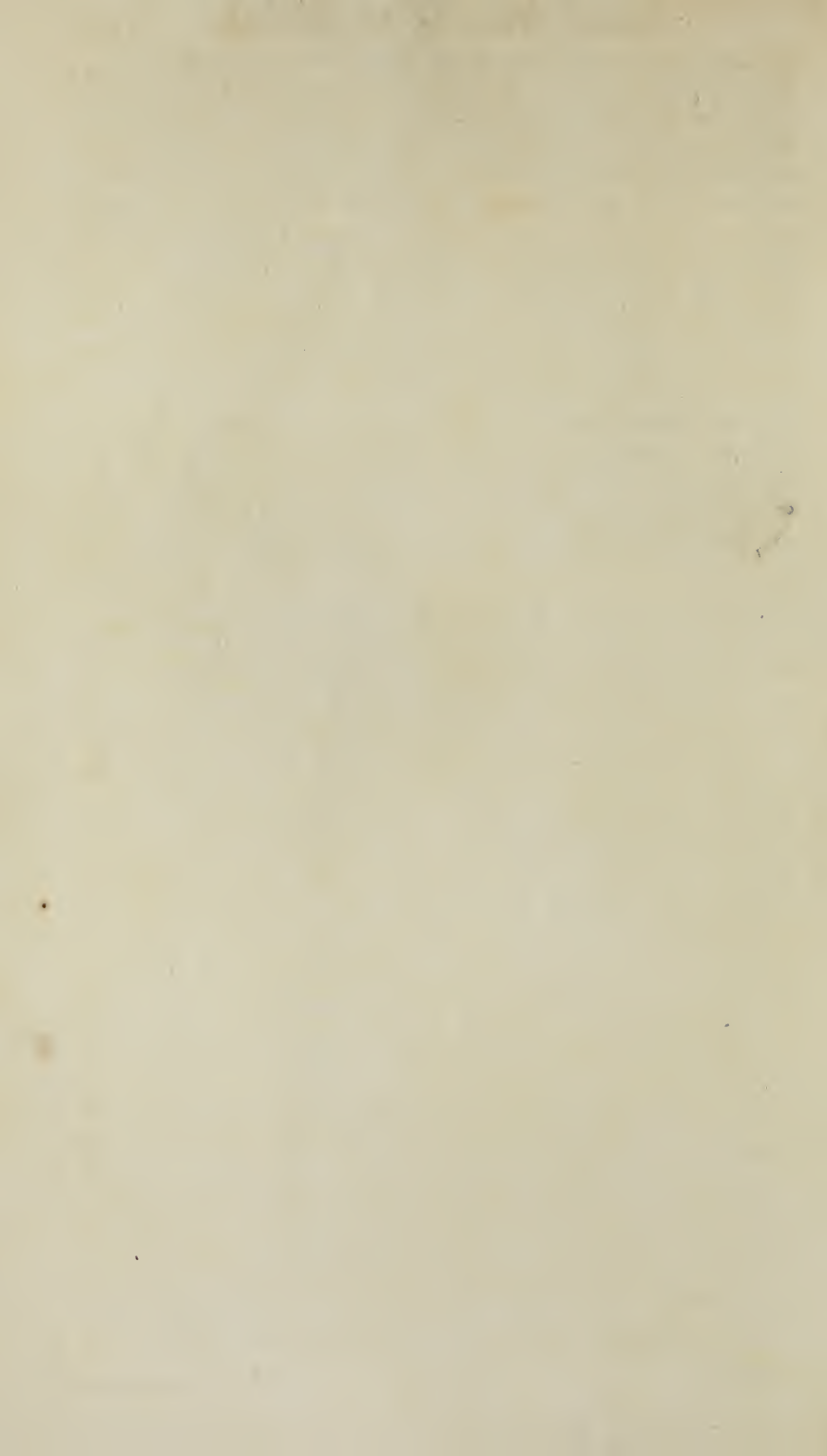
The Dowager Duchess of Marlborough, in the *Account of her own Conduct*<sup>g</sup>, gives the following relation of their inveteracy. "About the beginning of June, the design of turning out Lord Sunderland, began to be talked of. Lord Marlborough was now abroad, at the head of the army. As soon as the news reached him, he wrote a very moving letter to the Queen, representing the very ill consequences, it would necessarily have upon all affairs abroad, to have his son-in-law, against whose fidelity nothing could be objected, and in whom the allies had so entire a confidence, turned out of her service in the middle of a campaign: And begging it as a reward of all his past services, that she would at least delay her resolution, till the campaign was ended. I was likewise (says the Duchess) urged by some friends, to try to say something to divert, if possible, such a stroke; because it was given out, that the Queen would do this chiefly on my account, that I might feel the effects of her displeasure, in so sensible and tender a point. No consideration proper to myself, could have induced me to trouble the Queen again, after our last conversation. But I was overcome by the consideration of Lord Marlborough, Lord Sunderland, and the publick interest, and wrote in the best manner I could to the Queen, June 7, 1710; begging for Lord Marlborough's sake, that she would not give him such a blow, of which I dreaded the consequence; putting her in mind of her letter about the Duke upon the victory at Blenheim, &c." Her Grace

<sup>f</sup> Annals, year 9th, p. 187, 188, 189.

<sup>g</sup> P. 253, 254.







likewise wrote <sup>h</sup> a second letter to her Majesty, concluding, *That she begged it on her knees, &c.* And gives <sup>i</sup> this further account, “ Whether my interfering in this matter, hastened the execution of the design, I cannot say. Certain it is, that it didn’t retard it, for Lord Sunderland was presently after dismissed from his office. On which occasion several great men, who wished well to their country; and who feared Lord Marlborough might in disgust quit the service, wrote him a joint letter, &c.” Which letter containing some memorable passages relating to the Earl of Sunderland, I think it proper to insert, as well in honour of the Duke of Marlborough, and his Lordship, as of those who sent it. <sup>k</sup>

My Lord,

June 14, 1710.

“ We should not have given your Grace the trouble of this joint letter, but for the great concern and uneasiness in which we find you, on account of my Lord Sunderland, by your letter of the 20th to my Lord Treasurer, which he has communicated to us. That letter, as moving and as reasonable as it was, has not hindered the *seals* from being taken this morning from my Lord Sunderland. No wonder then if the utmost endeavours which could be used to prevent it, and the strong arguments which have been made of the ill consequences, that must attend such steps both at home and abroad, have met with little success. We find ourselves so much afflicted with this misfortune, that we cannot but be extremely sensible of the great mortification this must give you at this critical juncture, when you are every moment hazarding your life in the service of your country; and whilst the fate of Europe depends in so great a degree, on your conduct, and good success: But we are also as fully convinced, that it is impossible for your Grace to quit the service at this time, without the utmost hazard to the whole alliance. And we must therefore conjure you by the glory you have already obtained, by the many services you have done your Queen and Country; by the expectation you have justly raised in all Europe; and by all that is dear and tender to you at home, whose chief dependance is upon your success, that you would not leave this great work unfinished, but continue at the head of the army. This we look upon as the most necessary step that can be taken to prevent the dissolution of this parliament. Your Grace’s compliance with this our earnest request, would be the greatest obligation to us, and all that wish well to our country. And you may depend upon it, that the contrary will be the greatest

<sup>h</sup> Vide her Conduct, p. 255, 256.  
258, 259.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid. p. 257.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid. p. 257.

“ satisfaction to your enemies. We are, my Lord, your Grace’s  
 “ most humble and obedient servants,

Cowper. C. Devonshire. Godolphin. Orford. Somers.  
 Halifax, Newcastle, H. Boyle.

The removal of the Earl of Sunderland, had an immediate effect on the funds and the publick credit at home; whereby it gave an alarm to all the courts in the grand alliance. But being charged with no error or blemish on his character, that his remove might not appear too ungracious, her Majesty, as a testimony of her satisfaction with his services, was pleased to send to his Lordship <sup>1</sup>, *That she designed to grant him 3000 l. per Ann. to be settled upon him for life.* On which his Lordship, with a generosity and integrity hardly paralleled, answered, *He was glad her Majesty was satisfied he had done his duty; but if he could not have the honour to serve his country, he would not plunder it.* To recount by what means the ministry was totally changed, is no part of that I am treating. The Earl of Sunderland was steady in promoting the interests of the nation; and had the satisfaction of seeing the effects of it, in our late Sovereign’s quietly coming to his Kingdoms.

Four days after his Majesty made his royal entry into the city of London, he thought it proper to make some removes among the great officers, that were in the last ministry of Queen Anne; and was pleased to appoint the Earl of Sunderland, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in <sup>m</sup> the room of the Duke of Shrewsbury, viz. on the 24th of Sept. 1714. And on the 27th of the same month, the King dissolving his Privy Council, and appointing a new one to meet on the first of October, his Lordship <sup>n</sup> was then sworn thereof, and took his place at the board. The year after his Lordship was much indisposed in his health, which not permitting his going over into Ireland<sup>o</sup>, he resigned the government thereof, August 23, 1715. Yet while he held that important trust, he was watchful for the good of the Kingdom; and by his care and interest, matters were so well managed by removing disaffected persons, that notwithstanding the vast numbers of papists and malecontents, those intrusted by his Lordship with the government there, were able to spare several regiments for reducing the rebels in Great-Britain.

Five days after his resignation of the government of Ireland, he was <sup>p</sup> constituted Lord Privy Seal. And Feb. 10, 1715-16, had <sup>q</sup> a grant of the office of joint Vice-Treasurer of Ireland, with Henry, Earl of Rochester. On the 15th of April follow-

<sup>1</sup> Annals, ut antea, p. 230.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid. p. 779.

<sup>o</sup> Ibid. p. 850.

<sup>m</sup> Pointer’s Chron. Hist. Part III. p. 777.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid. p. 851.

<sup>q</sup> Ibid. p. 895.







ing 1716, his<sup>r</sup> Lady (daughter of the Duke of Marlborough) deceased, which was a sensible grief to his Lordship.

On the death of John Lord Somers, the 26th of April 1716<sup>s</sup>, he was in May following elected one of the Governors of the Charter-House, a trust to which none of late have been chosen, but of the prime nobility and chief officers of state. Also the 6th of July the same year<sup>t</sup>, was constituted sole Vice-Treasurer of Ireland. And his Majesty setting out from " St. James's, July 7, landed in Holland two days after, and proceeding to Hanover, went from thence to drink the waters of Pyrmont. The Earl of Sunderland attended the King at Hanover: And Edward Southwell, James Vernon, and Andrew Charlton, Esquires, were constituted commissioners for executing the office of Lord Privy Seal, during his Lordship's absence; " and they took the usual oaths in council at Hampton-Court, 23d of August 1716, his present Majesty, then Guardian of the Realm, being present.

His Lordship arrived at Brussels \*, Sept. 15, N. S. 1716, and from thence went to Aix la Chapelle, and after to the King at Hanover; where he continued till the beginning of the year ensuing, arriving from thence<sup>r</sup> at the Hague, January 13, at night. On 23 January his Lordship, <sup>z</sup> with Lord Cadogan, and Mr. Secretary Stanhope, set out from the Hague for Utrecht, to wait on the King, who was expected there in the afternoon. His Majesty embarked at Helvoetsluys, 17 Jan. O. S. and landed at Margate, about three the next day, accompanied by the Earl of Sunderland.

Having resigned the office of Lord Privy Seal, to the Duke of Kingston, his Majesty was pleased, 12 April 1717, <sup>a</sup> to appoint his Lordship one of his principal Secretaries of State; and on the 16th was sworn<sup>b</sup> in council, and took his place at the board accordingly.

On the 2d of October the same year, the King setting out from St. James's, to take the diversion of the horse races at Newmarket; the Earl of Sunderland attending on him, introduced to his Majesty, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, to know his pleasure when he would be attended by the University in a body. And his Majesty having appointed Friday the 4th of October, they came accordingly in their formalities, being introduced by the Earl of Sunderland. And the Vice-Chancellor made a speech to the King, in the name of the University, full of expressions of duty and affection for his person, and zeal for his government, desiring he would honour

<sup>r</sup> Pointer's Chron. Hist. Part III. p. 910.

No. 5449.      <sup>u</sup> Ibid. No. 5455.

No. 5471.      <sup>y</sup> Ibid. No. 5502.

No. 5528.      <sup>b</sup> Ibid. No. 5530.

<sup>s</sup> Ibid. p. 911.

<sup>w</sup> Ibid. No. 5463:

<sup>z</sup> Ibid. No. 5504.

<sup>t</sup> Gazette,

<sup>x</sup> Ibid.

<sup>a</sup> Ibid.

them with his presence at dinner; who was graciously pleased to accept of their invitation, and to appoint Sunday for that purpose. Accordingly, he was attended <sup>c</sup> by the Earl of Sunderland, and several of the nobility, and other persons of distinction, and was received with all demonstrations of the University's affection and loyalty to his person and government, and of their dutiful and grateful sense of the honour done them by his royal presence. At Trinity College he was entertained at dinner, and the Earl of Sunderland had the honour to dine with his Majesty.

On the 16th of March 1717-18, the King being present in council, at St. James's <sup>d</sup>, was pleased to declare his Lordship Lord President of the Privy Council, and thereupon he took his place at the board accordingly. And on the 21st of March following <sup>e</sup>, his Majesty appointed him first Commissioner of the Treasury, in the room of James Lord Viscount Stanhope, who succeeded him as Secretary of State. His Lordship was then known, to be the first in the King's favour and confidence, and so continued to the time of his decease.

On resigning his place of Lord President of the Privy Council to the Duke of Kingston, who was sworn in that trust at St. James's, Feb. 6, 1718-19 <sup>f</sup>; his Lordship the same day was appointed by his Majesty, Groom of the Stole, and first Gentleman of his Bed-chamber. And the King May 9, 1719, declaring in council, his intentions of leaving the Kingdom for a short time, he was nominated by his Majesty, one <sup>g</sup> of the Lords Justices, in whose hands he thought fit to entrust the Government during his absence.

There was then a war with Spain, and the late Duke of Ormond was spirited up, to make an attempt to land in England or Ireland; and was in the fleet fitted out by the Spaniards for that purpose, which sailed from Cadiz 23 February O. S. but were so entirely dispersed by a storm, 18 March, about 50 leagues to the west of cape Finisterre, as put an end to their designs of an invasion. However some of the Lords of Scotland who had been attainted, and were to act in concert with the Duke, landed in the Highlands, and gave some trouble; but they with their party were soon dispersed by the care and conduct of the Lords Justices. Afterwards the Earl of Sunderland, with the Lords Justices, having signed a proclamation <sup>h</sup>, July 1719, for apprehending William Murray, called Marquis of Tullibardine, George Keith, late Earl Maréchal, and William Mackenzie, late Earl of Seaforth, who appeared in arms, openly abetting the late insurrection &c. they immediately after went out of the kingdom. And

<sup>c</sup> Gazette, No. 5580.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. No. 5625.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid. No. 5626.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid. No. 5718.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid. No. 5744.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid. No. 5766.







thereupon his Lordship soon after set out for Hanover to wait on his Majesty, whereof our Gazettes<sup>i</sup> give the following accounts.

“Hague September 8, 1719, N. S. on the 4th instant in the morning, the Earl of Sunderland landed at Helvoetfluyts. In the afternoon he came to the Hague, and lodged in the Earl of Cadogan’s house. Having been visited by several foreign ministers, and having conferred with some of the principal members of this state, he set out this morning in his way to Hanover, Earl Cadogan accompanying him as far as Utrecht.”

“Hanover September 5, O. S.<sup>k</sup> on the 3d instant, the Earl of Sunderland arrived here, and had the honour to dine with his Majesty the next day at Herenhausen.” His Lordship returned to the Hague the 7th of November, O. S. having attended on the King till his return to England<sup>l</sup> who came to St. James’s November 14, 1719. And at a chapter of the garter, held at St. James’s the 30th of November following, the Chancellor by his Majesty’s command<sup>m</sup> signified the vacancy occasioned by the death of the Duke of Schomberg; and the statutes of the order prohibiting the election of any, who had not actually received the honour of knighthood, the Sovereign commanded Garter to bring in Charles Earl of Sunderland, Groom of the Stole, and first Commissioner of his Majesty’s Treasury, who being introduced, was knighted by his Majesty with the sword of State: After which he retired, and was immediately elected by the Knights Companions present, into that most noble order. But was not installed till the 24th of May 1720; at which time of his installation<sup>n</sup>, the Knights Companions of the order, the foreign ambassadors, with a great number of the nobility, and other persons of quality and distinction, were splendidly entertained at dinner, in the council chamber.

His plate of instalment, is the 10th in the 24th stall in the chapel of St George at Windsor, as follows.

“Du tres noble et puissant Seigneur, Charles Comte de Sunderland, Baron Spencer de Wormleighton, premier commissaire pour l’execution de la charge du Tresorier de L’Echequiere de la Grande Bretagne, premier Gentilhomme de la Chambre du lit du Roy, un des Seigneurs du conseil d’etat et prive de sa Majestie, et Chevalier du tres noble ordre de la jarretier, installe au chateau de Windsor le 24 jour de May, l’an 1720.”

On the 11th of June, 1720, he was<sup>p</sup> again declared one of the Lords Justices, for the administration of the govern-

<sup>i</sup> Gazette, No. 5777, 5780.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid. No. 5793.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid. No. 5800.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid. No. 5803.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid. No. 5854.

<sup>o</sup> Pote’s Hist. and Antiq. of

Windsor, p. 313.

<sup>p</sup> Gazette, No. 5859.

ment during the King's absence that year. And in the beginning of September his Lordship set out from his house in Piccadilly for Hanover <sup>a</sup>, and left the Hague the 15th of that month on his journey thither, where he was received by his Majesty with marks of distinction. His Lordship after attending the King at the Gohre <sup>r</sup>, came to Hanover October 10th; and the next day in the evening proceeded on his journey to England. But on his arrival at the Hague, and going thence to Helvoetsluys, he <sup>s</sup> was detained there eleven days by contrary winds, having in his company Sir George Bing (after Viscount Torrington) who accompanied him from Hanover; and had once put to sea, endeavouring to pass over to England in the William and Mary yacht, when they were driven back by stress of weather, and in some danger.

On the 5th of November, the King <sup>t</sup> arrived at Helvoetsluys and Lord Sunderland embarked with his Majesty, who put to sea, but was obliged by contrary winds to return thither the 7th. On the 9th they embarked again, and landing at Margate on the 10th in the evening, came to St. James's the next day.

In the succeeding year 1721, his Majesty made his abode in England; and his Lordship continued at the head of affairs, and in favour with his Sovereign, till the day of his death; which was made publick in the Gazette <sup>u</sup>, That he died on the 21st April 1722, much lamented.

His Lordship was distinguished by his encouragement of learning, and learned men; and very much enlarged the library of his family, by purchasing all valuable books that were published, as Dr. Claget, Bishop of Exeter informed me, who was his Lordship's Chaplain; and among other authors, who were partakers of his favours, Sir Richard Steel dedicated to him the 6th volume of Spectators, wherein he has justly described his Lordship's character.

“ Candour and openness of heart shined in all his actions,  
 “ and a willing condescension to all subordinate to him, made  
 “ business a pleasure to those who executed it under him. He  
 “ was accomplished with a great facility and elegance in all the  
 “ modern, as well as ancient languages, and had a perfect  
 “ knowledge of books and men. He was a happy and proper  
 “ member of the ministry, having a full and deep penetration  
 “ in the interests of mankind, joined with that of his fellow  
 “ subjects.” It may also be justly said, his integrity in the publick service can't more evidently appear, than by his not making any addition to his estate, though he was prime Minister for several years.

<sup>a</sup> Gazette, No. 5883.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid. No. 5896.

<sup>s</sup> Ibid. No. 5898.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid. No. 5902.

<sup>u</sup> Ibid. No. 6052.







His Lordship by his second Lady, daughter and co-heir of his Grace John Duke of Marlborough, as before mentioned, had issue four sons, and two daughters.

1. Robert, Lord Spencer, born the second of December 1700, and died September 12, the year following.

2. Robert, Lord Spencer, late Earl of Sunderland, who after a polite education, set out on his travels, and landed with our late Sovereign King George at Helvoetsluys, May 12 1719<sup>w</sup>; and was at the Hague in company with the Duke of Wharton, and Lord How. His Lordship<sup>x</sup> with the Lord Ryalton were at Geneva in April 1720, and continued beyond the seas, till after the death of his noble father; on whose decease he returned by the way<sup>y</sup> of France (being as I presume in Italy) and landing at Dover, May 18, 1722, arrived in town the next day. On the 10th of October the same year, his Lordship stood godfather with the King, who was in person at the Countess of Sunderland's, at the christning of her son, born after the death of the late Earl of Sunderland her husband, and gave him the name of George. The godmother was her Grace the Duchess of Monmouth. His Lordship afterwards going again beyond the seas, was seized with a fever at Paris, which after eleven days illness put a period to his life, in the 28th year of his age, on the 27th of November 1729, and dying unmarried, his honours and estate devolved on his brother Charles, now Earl of Sunderland, and Duke of Marlborough, &c. But before I treat of his Grace I shall proceed to give an account of his brothers, and sisters; and of his father's third marriage.

The honourable John Spencer was the fourth son of the Earl of Sunderland, born 13 May 1708, who by the last will and testament of his grandmother, Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, was left a very great fortune and estate. On the decease of William Lord Marquis of Blandford, who was member of parliament for Woodstock, a writ being ordered for a new election January 13, 1732, he was<sup>z</sup> chose in his place. And in that parliament summoned to meet June 13, 1734, he<sup>a</sup> was elected one of the Knights of the shire for the County of Bedford; and<sup>b</sup> returned for the borough of Woodstock, to the same parliament. Also in that summoned to meet June 25, 1741, was again chose for Woodstock; and being made ranger and keeper of his Majesty's great park at Windsor, a new writ was ordered November 27, 1744<sup>c</sup>, when he was re-elected member for Woodstock. He was married the 14th of February 1733-4, to Georgia-Carolina, 3d daughter

<sup>w</sup> Gazette, No. 5746.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid. No. 5842.

<sup>y</sup> Ibid. No. 6060.

<sup>z</sup> British Parl. Regist. No. 136.

<sup>a</sup> Ibid, No. 1.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. No. 136.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

of the right honourble John Earl of Granville, by whom he had issue a son the honourable John Spencer, born the 6th of December, 1734, now living 1755, and a daughter Diana, who died about six years old. And departing this life on the 20th of June 1746, left his lady surviving, who is since married to William Earl Cowper.

Lady Ann Spencer, eldest daughter of the Earl of Sunderland, was married to William Lord Viscount Bateman, of the kingdom of Ireland, and of Shobdon Court in Herefordshire, father by her Ladyship of John Lord Viscount Bateman, who was elected for Orford in Suffolk, in 1746<sup>d</sup>; and the year after on a new parliament being called, he was chosen for Woodstock, as also in the present parliament which met May 31, 1754. And his brother, the honourable William Bateman, was member for Gatton in Surry in the last parliament.

Lady Diana Spencer, 2d and youngest daughter, was married to his Grace, John Duke of Bedford, but died in 1736, leaving no issue.

The 3d wife of the Earl of Sunderland, which he married on the 5th of December 1617<sup>e</sup>, was Judith, daughter and co-heir of Benjamin Tichborne Esquire, brother to Henry Lord Viscount Tichborne, grandson of Sir Henry Tichborne Knt. one of the Lords Justices of Ireland, temp. Car. I. 4th son of Sir Benjamin Tichborne of Tichborne in Com. Southampton, Knt. and Baronet. By which Lady (secondly married to Sir Robert Sutton of Broughton in Com. Lincoln, Knt. of the Bath) he left issue one son born the 5th of October 1718, named William, who died of the small pox on the 2d of April 1722, and was buried at the same time with the Earl his father at Brinton. He had also by her a daughter Lady Margaret; and a son baptised 10 October 1722, named George, as before mentioned, but they both died in their infancies. And their mother died in May, 1749.

I am now to treat of his Grace Charles Duke of Marlborough, Marquis of Blandford, Earl of Sunderland, &c. His Grace on the death of William Marquis of Blandford, only son and heir of Francis Earl of Godolphin, and his wife Henrietta Duchess of Marlborough, who died on the 24th of August 1731, succeeded to the title of Marquis of Blandford; also to an annual rent charge of 8000*l.* per ann. pursuant to the will of his Grace John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough. And on the decease of the said Henrietta Duchess of Marlborough, the 24th of October 1733, succeeded to the title of Duke of Marlborough, &c. as heir to the Lady Anne Churchill his mother, second daughter and co-heir to the said John Duke of Marlborough.

<sup>d</sup> Parl. Regist. No. 136, 175.

<sup>e</sup> Ex Collect. Rob. Dale Richmond Feclal.







His Grace inclining to a martial life, his <sup>f</sup> Majesty was pleased the 4th of April, 1738, to constitute him Colonel of a regiment of foot; and on the 10th of September 1739 <sup>g</sup>, to be Colonel of a regiment of dragoons.

On the 26th of January 1738-9, his Grace <sup>h</sup> was appointed Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the Counties of Oxford and Buckingham; also soon after made one of the Lords of his Majesty's bedchamber, and on the 12 May, 1740 <sup>i</sup>, constituted Captain and Colonel of the second troop of his Majesty's horse guards.

At a Chapter of the most noble order of the Garter, held at the palace of St. James's, March 20, 1741-2, his <sup>k</sup> Grace having been first knighted by his Majesty, was elected one of the Knights Companions of that most noble order; and on the 21st of April following, was <sup>l</sup> with great magnificence installed at Windsor, with the Dukes of St. Albans, Kingston, and Portland, being placed in the 12th stall on the Prince's side, where under a plate of his Grace's arms &c. in St. George's chapel, is the following inscription <sup>m</sup>.

Du tres haut puissant et tres noble Prince Charles, Duc de Marlborough, Marquis de Blandford, Comte de Sunderland, et de Marlborough, Baron Spencer de Wormleighton, et Baron Churchill de Sandridge, Seigneur Lieutenant et garde des rolles dans les provinces de Bucks et d'Oxford, Gentilhomme de la Chamber du lit de sa Majesté, Capitaine et Colonel du second regiment Royal des gards a cheval, Chevalier du tres noble ordre de la jarretiere installé au château de Windsor le 21 jour Aupil, l'an 1741.

On the 20th of February 1741-2, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland being appointed Colonel of the first regiment of foot-guards, vacant by the decease of Sir Charles Willes, his Majesty <sup>n</sup> at the same time conferred on his Grace the second regiment of foot guards, whereof his Royal Highness had before the command. And on the 26th of February the year after, his Grace <sup>o</sup> was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General of his Majesty's forces.

In 1743, when our most gracious Sovereign put himself at the head of his army, his Grace went over with his Majesty <sup>p</sup>, and had the command of the brigade of foot-guards, which remarkably distinguished themselves at the battle of Dettingen <sup>q</sup> June 1743. the infantry gaining ground from the beginning, till they were masters of the field; as the account in our Gazette specifies.

<sup>f</sup> Gazette, No. 7689.

<sup>g</sup> Millan's succession of Colonels.

<sup>h</sup> Gazette,

No. 7774. <sup>i</sup> Ibid. No. 7999.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid. No. 7998.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid. No. 8009.

<sup>m</sup> Pote's Hist. of Windsor, p 313.

<sup>n</sup> Gazette, No. 8094.

<sup>o</sup> Ibid.

No. 8200.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid. No. 8240.

On the 5th of October 1744, his Grace<sup>a</sup> resigned his regiment of foot-guards, which was conferred on the Earl of Albemarle; having that year on the decease of Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, succeeded to the Duke of Marlborough's estate.

On the breaking out of the rebellion in 1745, his Grace was constituted Major General of his Majesty's Forces<sup>r</sup>; and on the 10th of October 1747, Lieutenant General of the forces.

In 1749, his Majesty was pleased to declare his Grace Lord Steward of his Household; and thereupon, by his Majesty's command, was sworn of the Privy Council, and took his place at that board as Lord Steward of the Household, the 12th of June, 1749. On the 17th of April 1750, his Majesty in council, declaring his intention of leaving the Kingdom for a short time, was pleased to appoint his Grace one of the Lords Justices, for the administration of the government during his absence. And on July 12 following, his Grace, with the Duke of Richmond, and the Duke of Portland, by commission from his Majesty, installed his Royal Highness George Prince of Wales, a Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter; also at the same time, seven more of the highest rank, who had been elected with his Royal Highness into that most noble order. On the decease of the Duke of Richmond soon after, his Grace was chosen to succeed him, as one of the Governors of the Charter-House, Sept. 27, the same year.

On the 30th of March, 1752<sup>s</sup>, when his Majesty declared his resolution of visiting his dominions in Germany, he was again nominated one of the Lords Justices during his Majesty's absence.

His Grace, with his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, and the great officers of State<sup>t</sup>, were Commissioners for opening the session of parliament at Westminster, 31st of May, 1754; also in another commission for putting<sup>u</sup> an end to the session, June 5 following, when they prorogued it to Thursday 8 August.

On the decease of Earl Gower Lord Privy Seal, his Majesty was pleased<sup>x</sup> Jan. 7th, 1755, to grant to his Grace the office of Keeper of his Majesty's Privy Seal.

And April 26, 1755, his Grace was again<sup>y</sup> appointed one of the Lords Justices for the administration of the government, during his Majesty's absence.

His Grace on the 23d of May 1732, was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Lord Trevor, and by her Grace hath issue now living, 1754.

George, Marquis of Blandford, born 26 Jan. 1738, who had his present Majesty for his godfather.

<sup>a</sup> Gazette, No. 8471.

No. 9376.

No. 9471.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid. No. 8682.

<sup>u</sup> Ibid: No. 9378.

<sup>s</sup> Ibid. No. 9153.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid. No. 9439.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid.

<sup>y</sup> Ibid.







# Spencer, Duke of Marlborough.

~~Manners, Duke of Rutland~~

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Lord Charles Spencer, born 31 March, and baptised April 18, 1740.

Lord Robert Spencer, born the 8th of May, 1747.

Lady Diana Spencer, born 24 March 1734.

Lady Elizabeth Spencer, born 29 December 1737.

TITLES.] Charles Spencer, Duke of Marlborough, Marquis of Blandford, Earl of Sunderland, and of Marlborough, Baron Spencer of Wormleighton, and Baron Churchill of Sandridge, one of the Lords of his Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, Lord Lieutenant of the county of Oxford, and of Buckinghamshire; Lieutenant General of his Majesty's forces, Lord Keeper of his Majesty's Privy Seal, and Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter.

CREATIONS.] Baron Churchill of Sandridge, in Com. Hertford, 14 May (1685) 1 Jac. II. Baron Spencer of Wormleighton, in Com. Warwick, 21 July, (1603) 1 Jac. I. Earl of Marlborough, in Com. Wilts, 9 April 1689, 1 Will. and Mar. Earl of Sunderland, 8 June (1643) 19 Car. I. And Marquis of Blandford, in Com. Dorset, and Duke of Marlborough aforesaid, 14 Decemb. (1702) 1 Anne.

ARMS.] Quarterly, Argent and Gules, in the 2d and 3d a Fret, Or; over all, on a Bend, Sable, three Escalops of the first.

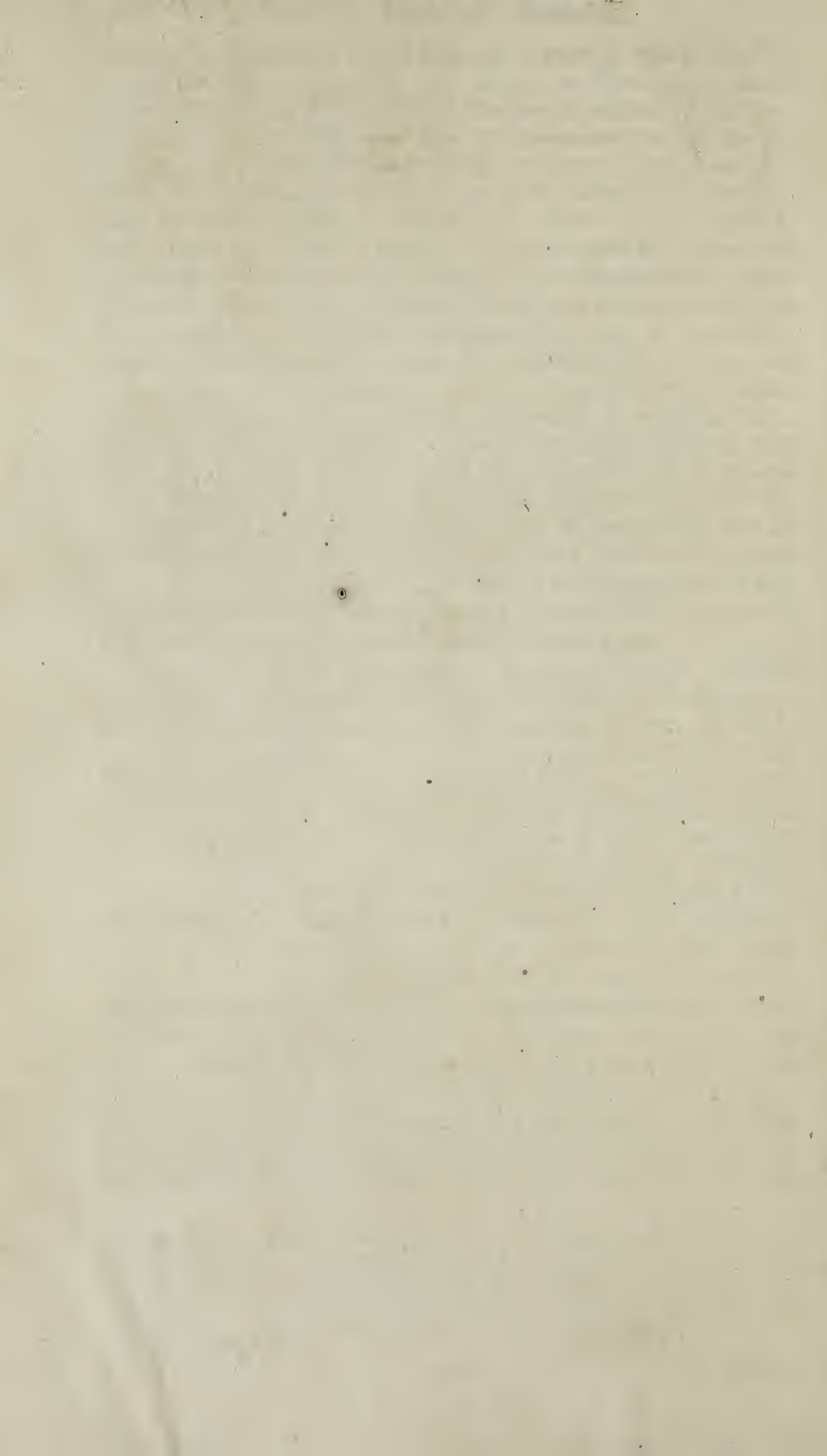
CREST.] In a Ducal Coronet, Or, a Gryphon's Head between two wings erected, Argent, gorged with a plain Collar, Gules, beaked, Or.

SUPPORTERS.] The dexter, a Gryphon party per fess, Argent and Or; sinister, a Wyvern, Argent, wings expanded, each collar'd and chain'd, Sable; and each Collar charged with three Escallops, Argent.

MOTTO.] DIEU DEFEND LE DROIT.

CHIEF SEAT.] At Blenheim, near Woodstock, Oxfordshire, 59 miles from London



















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